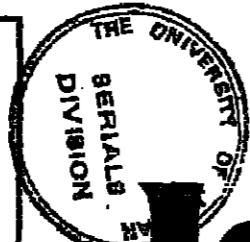


U.S. Congress criticises Iran

WASHINGTON (AP) — More than 160 members of Congress wrote to the leader of Iran's largest opposition movement Tuesday criticising Tehran's "medieval dictatorship" and its use of terrorism to eliminate opponents.

The letter to Mohammad Khatami, leader of the Iran-based People's Mojahedin Organisation, was initiated by Congressman Mervyn M. Dymally and signed by 160 House Democrats and 62 Republicans. It expressed the lawmakers' condolences to Rajavi over the machine-gun killing of his brother Kassem Rajavi by an Iranian squad in Switzerland last April. Swiss police have confirmed that one or more Iranian government services were involved in the assassination and are continuing the investigation. Rajavi's widow, Michelle, met in Washington last week with Dymally, a Democrat, and other members of Congress to discuss the Iranian government's involvement in the killing. "Dr. Rajavi's assassination is but more proof of Tehran's continuing insistence to use terrorism as the principal and indispensable pillar of its foreign policy," said the letter. "Determination is required to confront Tehran's medieval dictatorship," the lawmakers said.



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107,000 Soviets allowed to leave with Israeli visas

MOSCOW (R) — A record 107,000 Soviet citizens were granted permission to emigrate to Israel in the first six months of 1990, Interior Minister Vadim Bakatin said Monday. But it appeared not all went to Israel after emigrating. The number of Soviet arrivals in the first half of 1990 was just over 50,000, an Israeli immigration official said two weeks ago. In the past many Soviet Jews allowed to emigrate to Israel have gone instead to Rome or Vienna to wait for U.S. visas. More than 60,000 Jews left the Soviet Union in all of 1989, but many went to the United States. The previous annual record for Jewish emigration was 51,330 in 1979. Bakatin told a news conference only 4,000 Soviet citizens emigrated with visas for the United States in the first half of 1990. He said he did not know how many of those with visas for Israel were actually heading for the United States. He said a total of 196,000 Soviet citizens had emigrated so far this year, some 63,000 to West Germany and 15,000 to Greece.

Medvedev enters top council

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev Tuesday appointed close political ally Vadim Medvedev to his presidential council, the new top organ of power. Medvedev, 61, a close Gorbachev adviser on ideology, was heckled and jeered by delegates at this month's conservative-dominated Communist Party congress for allegedly failing to uphold traditional communism. One angry conservative waved a red card at him, spurring a football referee expelling a player from the game. Tuesday's announcement, reported by TASS news agency, gave no details but the council was apparently being increased to 17 members from 16.

Irish minister to press hostage case

DUBLIN (AP) — Foreign Minister Gerry Collins will press Israel and Arab League states next week to help win freedom for Irish teacher Brian Keenan, a hostage in Lebanon for four years, the Foreign Ministry said Tuesday. Collins, travelling with a European Community (EC) mission, will visit Israel Monday and then meet representatives of Arab League members in Tunisia Tuesday, a ministry spokesman said. In London, Sky Television News reported Tuesday from Beirut that a hostage is expected to be released within five or six days. The report said it was likely the hostage would be Keenan.

Sweden extradites Soviet hijacker

STOCKHOLM (AP) — A Soviet youth who hijacked a domestic Soviet airliner to Sweden last month was extradited to the Soviet Union Tuesday, Dmitry Semionov, 17, was believed the first person to be extradited from Sweden to the Soviet Union since the end of World War II, when some Baltic refugees were sent back. Semionov left on a scheduled flight at night, escorted by four Soviet policemen, the national news agency TT said. Semionov was the first of five young Soviet men who hijacked five domestic airliners to Sweden and Finland beginning June 9. The hijackers surrendered peacefully to police and said they wanted to stay in the Nordic countries. No one was injured in the incidents.

111 people die of meningitis in Sudan

KHARTOUM (AP) — More than 100 people died of meningitis this year but the disease has not assumed epidemic proportions, a senior health ministry official said Tuesday. Dr. Sadek Mahjoub, director of the ministry's epidemics department, said his office registered 1,012 cases of meningitis since the beginning of the year, of whom 111 people died. "This does not amount to an epidemic situation," he told the state-owned newspaper Al Inkaz Al Watani.

King: War could erupt over Jewish immigration

'Mideast facing a bleak and dangerous future' ● 'U.S. has a great moral responsibility to solve this problem before it is too late' ● 'Washington should be in touch with the Palestinians'

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein has said in a television interview that war could break out in the Middle East over the rising number of Soviet Jewish immigrants.

In an interview screened late Monday night by the American television network ABC, the King likened the present situation to that before the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

Answering a question about the similarity with 1967 by ABC correspondent Forrest Sawyer on the programme "Nightline," King Hussein said:

"It is almost similar to it, yes. It seems to be a tunnel towards

which everything is moving, and a very dangerous one it is. We don't see the light at the end of the tunnel."

The Middle East "is facing a bleak and dangerous future," King Hussein said.

"There is predicted to be about a million (Soviet Jewish immigrants) over the next 18 months," the King said in the interview aired in the late evening.

"The limitations of what is available, even in terms of water, makes it impossible to see how everyone's going to fit in without something happening," he said.

The King said the likelihood of war intensified after an easing in

Soviet emigration laws under President Mikhail Gorbachev.

"It appears as if these people (the immigrants) are likely to deny others their human rights. Namely, people in the occupied territories, in Palestine," King Hussein said.

Blaming Israel for heightening tensions, King Hussein said Arabs had worked consistently for peace.

"I don't think that the Arabs have been aggressive. Over many, many years they've been seeking peace. It is on the Israeli side that the problem is," he said.

He also criticised the United States for suspending dialogue

with the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"The United States must be in touch with the Palestinians ... the situation's getting worse all the time," he said.

"I believe the United States has a great moral responsibility, greater than ever before, to solve this problem before it is too late," he said.

Following is the interview in question and answer form:

Question: Your Majesty, the last time you spoke with this broadcast was back in October 1988. You told Ted Copoll that if Yitzhak Shamir would've become prime minister, it would be in

your estimation a disaster and you wouldn't be able to predict the outcome. Do you still feel this strongly?

Answer: Well, I certainly feel that this area is facing a very bleak and very dangerous future at this point in time and in the future as I see it.

Q: Well, when you say a bleak and a dangerous future, do you mean that there is in fact a prospect for war?

A: Well, there is a situation that has been quite unique in the world. No attention has been as yet made to the dangers that we see; the Arab-Israeli problem, the Palestinian problem, and now

it is accentuated by the fact that there is such an influx of new immigrants to Israel.

We've never been against the right of people to move wherever they wished. We've welcomed the chance afforded Jews in the Soviet Union and in other parts of the world to travel.

We stand for human rights, but in this case, unfortunately, it appears as if those people are likely to deny others their human rights, namely the people in the occupied territories in Palestine, Palestinians regarding their rights on their legitimate soil.

(Continued on page 4)



President says Baghdad lost \$14 billion

Iraq attacks Gulf states for undermining oil prices

BAGHDAD (R) — President Saddam Hussein accused some Gulf Arab states Tuesday of stabbing Iraq "in the back with a poisoned dagger" charging they had conspired with the United States to undermine world oil prices.

In an outspoken attack apparently aimed at neighbouring Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Hussein issued a veiled threat to quota-busting countries blamed for producing an oil glut that sent prices plummeting.

Hussein, in a speech marking the 22nd anniversary of the Iraqi revolution, said these countries had caused "a dangerous policy."

"It has caused us and the Arab Nation great harm... if words fail to protect Iraqis, something effective must be done to return things to their natural course and return usurped rights to their owners," he said.

Iraq's efforts to rebuild its war-damaged economy have been hit by the slide in oil prices, the country's main source of revenue.

Instead of showing apprecia-

tion for Iraqi sacrifices in the 1980-88 Gulf war against Iran, some Gulf rulers had "stabbed it in the back with a poisoned dagger."

Iraq had "sacrificed its own sons to keep their banks full with more money than they have ever had... If Iraq was not there, they would have been under the hands of others (Iran)..." Hussein said.

Iraq, with the most powerful and battle-hardened army in the 'Arab World', has waged a diplomatic campaign for the past two months to stop OPEC quota-busting by Kuwait and the UAE and boost prices.

Meeting in the Saudi Red Sea city of Jeddah last week, Kuwait and the UAE agreed under strong Iraqi and Saudi pressure to limit their production and prices have since rebounded.

Hussein said the sharp drop in oil prices in the first half of 1990 had cost Iraq \$14 billion in lost revenues.

"The policy followed by some Arab rulers is an American policy that stands counter to the interest of the Arab Nation, because... it strikes the interest of the nation

in the heart and serves foreign ambitions," the Iraqi leader said.

This year, he said, some Gulf rulers' policy had opposed the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and the interests of the Arab World.

Hussein said that the United States had engineered "this subversive policy," which sent oil prices tumbling from around \$21 a barrel in January to an 18-month low of some \$14 in June.

"The United States wants to hold the sole position of the only superpower, in order to secure the flow of oil for it, at the cheapest prices," Hussein said.

Washington also wanted "to control the fate of its (oil) producers, and then to control the fate of its other consumers, particularly the European states, Japan and even maybe the Soviet Union at a later date," he added.

By contrast, Hussein praised his Gulf war foe Iran for what he said were positive responses to his recent call for a peace treaty.

Iraq has also stated its appreciation for Iran's efforts to bolster the oil market.

Iraq, Iran report progress towards peace settlement

NICOSIA (Agencies) — The leaders of both Iraq and Iran indicated Tuesday that they were inching towards settling their dispute which led to eight years of war.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein said he hoped that direct talks with Iran would lead to peace between the two countries, while Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani said Baghdad and Tehran had narrowed their differences over a border treaty which was one of the main causes of their war.

"The Iranians responded favourably to our proposal for a summit meeting and we hope that recent diplomatic and ministerial meetings will pave the way for progress towards peace," Hussein said in a speech broadcast by

Baghdad Radio.

His address marked the 22nd anniversary of the assumption of power by the ruling Baath Arab Socialist Party.

Earlier this month, Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati met in Geneva with his Iraqi counterpart, Tariq Aziz, for their first face-to-face talks since the United Nations-sponsored ceasefire in August 1988 halted the eight-year war between the two countries.

Tehran Radio said Rafsanjani told a gathering of senior Muslim clerics Monday night that a rise in oil prices and prospects of greater cooperation in the Gulf region were benefits of the new mood of peace between Iran and Iraq.

"The talks have been useful so far and the two countries are

expected to move towards peace," the radio quoted Rafsanjani as saying in reference to the new negotiations which followed a peace initiative by Hussein.

"The Iraqis' attitude towards peace has become more positive. The two countries' envoys in Geneva are now holding talks and the two countries' viewpoints have come closer within the framework of the Algiers agreement."

Hussein nullified the 1975 Algiers agreement, which gave Iran sovereignty over the eastern half of the Shatt Al Arab border river, just before the Gulf war erupted in September 1980.

Iraq, which has called for restoration of Arab control over the whole waterway, wants an early clearing of the Shatt.

Syria: Assad-Mubarak talks changed Mideast

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria said Tuesday President Hafez Al Assad's visit to Alexandria early this week to meet Egyptian leader Hosni Mubarak would alter the balance of power in the Middle East.

Diplomats, however, were not predicting immediate concrete results from the three-day summit that ended Monday.

"The Assad-Mubarak summit opens a bright new page... an important turning point in the Arab-Israeli conflict," said the official daily Al Thawra.

"It will change the balance of power in the region in the interest of the Arab Nation and its people and turn upside down the schemes of our enemies."

A hopeful Arab diplomat said: "It tends more towards peace than to war because the Syrian-

Egyptian rapprochement will form a strong Arab force pressing for peace."

George Habash, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), regarded the summit as a tactical move by Assad and did not expect any softening of Syria's antagonism to Israel.

But another Palestinian leader based in Damascus, Nayef Hawatmeh of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), called it "a step in the right direction."

He expected it could lead to a settlement of Syria's longstanding quarrel with Iraq.

Assad, a hardliner on the Arab-Israeli conflict and one of the last Arab leaders to accept Egypt's return to the Arab fold, travelled to Egypt's Mediter-

anean port of Alexandria on Saturday to meet Mubarak.

It was Assad's first visit to Egypt in nearly 17 years — since before Cairo's 1979 treaty with Israel. He bypassed Cairo, which some saw as a snub to the only Arab capital in which Israel has an embassy.

But the Syrian leader is expected to attend an Arab summit planned for Cairo in November.

Before flying home, Assad also visited Sharm Al Sheikh in the Sinai peninsula — a tacit blessing of the fruits of the separate peace that allowed Egypt to recover Sinai from Israeli occupation.

While Israeli officials said they hoped the Alexandria talks would draw Assad towards the Egyptian position, Syrian news media presented the trip as a step towards

Arab solidarity, with many historical references to the strategic advantages of a Syrian-Egyptian alliance.

DFLP leader Hawatmeh told Reuters: "The Alexandria summit is a step in the right directions for a full Egyptian-Syrian understanding on the elements of a comprehensive and balanced settlement in the Middle East."

He said Egyptian-Syrian differences had been very deep but could now be brought together on the basis that the Arab-Israeli conflict should be settled by an international conference — an approach Israel rejects.

The benefits, he predicted, would include successful Egyptian mediation in Syria's feud with Iraq.

Israel reacts cautiously, page 2

Jordanian, Yemeni leaders begin talks in Sanaa

SANAA, Yemen (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein arrived here Tuesday on his first visit to Yemen since the birth of the new state merging the North and South.

From here, King Hussein was expected to proceed to Saudi Arabia and Oman to discuss regional developments and bilateral ties.

Shortly after King Hussein's arrival, a first round of talks was held between the Jordanian delegation led by the King and the Yemeni side, led by President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

The talks dealt with the latest developments on both the Arab and international arenas, bilateral relations and means of further

enhancing cooperation among the four member states of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) — Jordan, Iraq, Yemen and Egypt.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said King Hussein accompanied by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and political advisor Adnan Abu Odah, will visit Saudi Arabia and Oman after the newly united Yemen.

"King Hussein will meet with his Arab brethren and discuss different Arab issues and bilateral relations," Petra said.

King Hussein was expected to discuss recent developments in the Arab arena, primarily the Palestine question with Saudi

Arabian and Omani leaders.

The government official said King Hussein will congratulate the leaders of Yemen, formed by the May merger of North and South Yemen, "which is considered a great achievement, for it is a step in consolidating the Arab stand."

Upon departure from Amman, the King was seen off by His Royal Highness Prince Faisal, the speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, Cabinet ministers and senior civil and military officials.

Prince Faisal was sworn in to serve as Regent during King Hussein's absence.

'Stray shell' kills 5 Israeli soldiers

TEL AVIV (AP) — Five Israeli soldiers were killed and 10 others wounded Tuesday when a stray artillery shell landed near them during a training exercise, the army command said.

Three of the wounded, including a junior officer and a woman instructor, suffered serious injuries in the explosion of the 155-millimetre shell, the military said in a statement.

It was the second fatal training accident in three months.

On April 23, seven Israeli airmen were killed when their transport helicopters collided during a flight over the occupied West Bank.

The latest accident occurred when a reserve unit was conducting an exercise involving the capture of a position at a training base in southern Israel, the army said.

Army officials who spoke on condition of anonymity said the accident was at a military base near Tzetzim in the southern desert, 25 kilometres from the Egyptian border.

Israel Radio said the shell, fired at 9:30 a.m. (0630 GMT) by troops training at one section of the base, accidentally fell near another group of soldiers training in another area of the base. Reports of the incident were not released until nine hours later.

"The round was not meant to fall where it did at that stage. According to the information I have, the reason for the accident was human error," Uri Saguy told Israel army radio.

Army officials said all those injured in the accident were reserve soldiers. Israeli men under the age of 55 serve up to a month each year on reserve duty after three years of compulsory service.

Freed British nurse handed over in Lusaka

LUSAKA (AP) — British nurse Daphne Parish, on her first full day of freedom from an Iraqi jail, was to fly late Tuesday to Britain.

The British nurse was sentenced to 15 years in jail as an accomplice of executed journalist Farzad Bazoft, but was freed after an appeal by Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda.

She was flown to Zambia on an Iraqi-registered executive jet after serving one year of her sentence. Parish was scheduled to leave Zambia on a British Airways flight to London late Tuesday, accompanied by a Lusaka-based British diplomat.

Bazoft, an Iranian-born reporter working for a British newspaper, was executed in Iraq on March 15 after being convicted on charges of spying.

"We didn't do anything I considered illegal," Parish told reporters Tuesday.

Earlier in the day, Kaunda handed Parish over to British officials in Lusaka.

If it were not for what he described as Britain's vicious attitude towards Iraq, Kaunda said Bazoft "might have lived, might have been here with Daphne."

Parish met reporters at the residence of the British high commissioner. Asked if she saw her release as an admission by the Iraqis that she was innocent she said:

"I hope they accept I am not guilty. I hope so, I just hope that

they believe I am innocent."

She said: "I was very sad to know that Bazoft was killed... I can't comment on whether this was the right thing to do. I don't know."

Asked if she was prepared to forgive and forget her own experience, Parish said: "Oh yes."

She added: "Already when I think of Iraq I am thinking about the hospital (where she worked). I'm remembering my first year when I was happy. The prison sentence is already shrinking in my mind now."

Swedish protest

Sweden delivered a protest to the Iraqi charge d'affaires in Stockholm Tuesday over the hanging of a Swedish citizen in Baghdad last week.

Jalil Mehdi Al Neamy, an Iraqi-born naturalised Swede, was convicted of spying for Israel and executed on July 11 after spending nine months in a Baghdad jail.

Spokesman Bo Heineback said the Foreign Ministry had called in Charge d'Affaires Mohammad Said Hani "so that Sweden could bring home how seriously the government looks upon the execution of Al Neamy."

Sweden delivered its protest following a meeting earlier on Tuesday between Foreign Minister Sten Andersson and Sweden's ambassador to Iraq.

ANZ Grindlays Bank
THANKS AND APPRECIATION
The management and staff of ANZ Grindlays Bank - Jordan wish to express their thanks and appreciation to:
MAJOR GENERAL FADEL ALI - Director General - Public Security Department
BRIGADIER GHALEB AL ZOUBI - Director - Amman Police and their colleagues
for their excellent and timely efforts in apprehending the armed robbers who stole JD 10,000 from their Marka Branch on 15th July 1990.
This outstanding result reflects so creditably on the very high standards of the Jordan Security Services.
بنك اي.ان.زد كرنديلايز

PLO fighters separate Amal and Hizbollah

NABATIYEH, Lebanon (Agencies) — Hundreds of Palestinian guerrillas deployed Tuesday to halt Shi'ite militia battles on the edge of Israel's "security zone" in South Lebanon.

Security sources said earlier any PLO deployment so near the border zone could provoke Israeli raids to dislodge them.

Witnesses said some 600 Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) fighters took positions in a string of villages in the Iqlim Al Toufah district to stop fighting between the Iranian-backed Hizbollah and the pro-Syrian Amal militia.

Hizbollah drove Amal fighters out of a key hilltop village in fierce fighting during the night, leaving the village square "littered with bodies," police reported.

Police said at least eight people were killed and 27 wounded in close-quarter fighting around Jarjou. It is 16 kilometres southeast of the port of Sidon, where the PLO has its bases in refugee

camps.

The casualties raised the toll since fighting erupted early Monday to at least 20 killed and 77 wounded.

Before the PLO intervened, police said Hizbollah fighters broke through Amal's defences around Jarjou and were advancing towards Amal-held Nabatiyeh, the region's main town 10 kilometres to the south.

"It was close quarter combat in Jarjou. The village square is littered with bodies that couldn't be evacuated by the Red Cross because of the savage fighting," a police spokesman said. He cannot be named under standing rules.

Amal said early Monday it had repulsed a three-pronged Hizbollah assault on Jarjou. But a second thrust late at night broke through, police reported.

Police said the Hizbollahs smashed through the Amal lines on Jarjou's northern edge behind a barrage of rockets from multi-barrelled launchers.

The police spokesman said Amal responded with 130mm Howitzer fire, "but could not stop the advance."

Police and reporters said fighting eased shortly after midnight (2100 GMT) Monday. But they said an estimated 1,000 civilians living in the Amal-held area around Jarjou fled during the night.

Police said 600 heavily armed guerrillas from Fatch, moved in to halt the bloodletting around 7 a.m. (0400 GMT).

The force was led by the PLO commander in Lebanon, Colonel Ala.

It deployed along a four-kilometre front between Amal and Hizbollah.

Four hours later, Hizbollah fighters shelled the Palestinians with mortars, police said.

Palestinian sources and witnesses said four Israeli warplanes staged mock raids over villages where guerrillas, equipped with rocket-propelled grenades, mortars and machine guns, deployed.



Hunger in Israel... Israeli paramedics take a homeless woman to hospital after she passed out from lack of food and drink in a "teated city" in the Tel Aviv suburb of Holon. Many Israelis are

becoming homeless because of high rents, which immigrants can pay because they get grants

Geagea accepts Taif accord

BEIRUT (AP) — Militia chieftain Samir Geagea Tuesday announced his "full acceptance" of an Arab League-brokered peace plan to end Lebanon's 15-year-old civil war.

The move by Geagea, commander of the right-wing Lebanese Forces (LF) militia, was seen as a step forward in breaking the deadlocked peace effort launched last October when the Lebanese parliament endorsed the plan at a special meeting in the Saudi Arabian resort of Taif last October.

But it still left President Elias Hrawi's government with several obstacles to surmount before the plan can be put into effect, most notably the opposition of Geagea's Christian rival, rebel General Michel Aoun.

But the quasi-alliance of Geagea and Hrawi was not expected at this stage to signal joint military moves against Aoun.

Geagea also unconditionally accepted a move announced by Hrawi's government last Wednesday that called on all Lebanese leaders to accept the Taif pact and withdraw all militias from

down.

Ibrahim fled in Sunday seeking to break the political logjam. But Aoun rejected the renewed call for national reconciliation.

Beirut's independent Al Nahar daily said Ibrahim will hold another round of talks with Aoun to advise him of the "final stands by the various Lebanese leaders."

Aoun was expected to "clarify his stand during the second meeting with Ibrahim," Al Nahar said.

A government source in west Beirut, speaking on condition of anonymity, described Geagea's acceptance of the peace plan as a "positive move that would facilitate implementation of the government-proposed mechanism for putting the Taif accord into effect."

"Geagea wants government forces deployed in areas he controls in east Beirut to put them in confrontation with Aoun's troops. I don't think the government will accept to go into a military confrontation with Aoun," he said.

Under "emergency regulations," the prefabricated units were to be set up near nine towns, most in the Galilee in the north and in the southern desert.

Some politicians expressed fears that Sharon would try to take undemocratic actions, assuming powers delegated to planning councils and zoning boards. Sharon was accused as defence minister in 1982 of concealing military plans from the government that led to the army's full-scale invasion of Lebanon.

The three-judge supreme court panel issued its ruling after a liberal legislator, Abraham Poraz of the Shinui Party, appealed against Sharon's use of emergency regulations.

In his appeal, Poraz argued that Sharon used emergency regulations at a time when the Knesset was debating the housing crisis. Last week, the Knesset passed a law which significantly shortened housing licence procedures.

"Emergency regulations are an anti-democratic act... that should be used only in difficult

Court rules against Sharon's housing plan

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's supreme court Tuesday cancelled emergency regulations initiated by Housing Minister Ariel Sharon to speed the construction of homes for thousands of Soviet immigrants.

The decision comes as a housing shortage is developing in Israel.

Up to 150,000 Soviet immigrants are expected to arrive this year, and tent cities are springing up across the country as protests by Israelis who say subsidies for immigrants are driving up rents and pricing others out of the housing market.

An Israeli legal expert said the supreme court decision was "revolutionary." It was the first time the court challenged the government's use of "emergency regulations" instead of gaining approval for programmes from parliament.

Sharon, who also serves as cabinet coordinator of immigration, had asked to use emergency regulations to allow the purchase of 3,000 prefabricated homes, either locally or abroad. The cabinet approved it July 1.

exceptional situations, when there is no other choice," Poraz said on Israel army radio.

"The question was this, can you use emergency regulations when you have a legal alternative according to the Knesset laws. The supreme court gave the answer I expected — no," Poraz said.

The government argued in its court response that emergency regulations were needed to ease the housing crisis created by the mass influx of Soviet Jews.

According to figures submitted by the government, Israel's 20,000 available rental apartments will be filled by the end of September.

A government representative, attorney Nili Arad, argued in an affidavit that the government planned would need some 100,000 housing units between October 1990 and December 1991, before planned units can be completed.

The court ruled that Sharon could turn to the Knesset instead of using emergency regulations. It said the decision would take effect in 21 days and ordered the housing ministry to

pay 2,000 shekels (\$1,000) in trial costs.

"We have witnessed a sort of a race between the minister and the Knesset, and under such circumstances, we see the housing minister's disregard towards this consideration in introducing emergency regulations as a serious flaw justifying their cancellation," said the ruling, carried by Israel's Itim news agency.

"There is no doubt that this is a revolutionary decision," said Moshe Negbi, a legal expert of the Hebrew daily HadaShot.

He said the "emergency regulations" procedure was introduced during wartime in 1948, when there was fear that the parliament could not always be convened because of the fighting.

"For the first time, the supreme court clearly says that the government... must not use these radical powers when there is no problem in convening the parliament," Negbi said. "It must not get around the parliament and adopt its authority."

Israeli pilot 'killed himself or crashed'

AMMAN (J.T.) — An Israeli pilot who disappeared Friday morning with a Dornier 28 reconnaissance plane he had taken without permission from an air base appears to have met with an accident or to have committed suicide, according to Israel's air force commander.

Avihay Bin-Nun was quoted as saying by the Jerusalem Post Tuesday that the pilot had crashed somewhere in Israel or abandoned the plane 15 minutes after take-off 10 kilometres off the Israeli coast. He ruled out the possibility that the pilot is abroad and said that any attempt to reach any Arab country could have become known in Israel by now.

Bin-Nun said that the pilot, a resident of Haifa, left his civilian clothes, documents, and money at the base. His passport is in Israel.

The guards at the airbase saw him go to the plane but thought he was leaving on a routine flight. The mechanics were sleeping 10 to 15 metres away, and the plane's noise did not seem odd to them. The control tower staff did not see or hear him as he took off with his lights off and without contacting them.

He first flew over the area of

his parents' home and Chief of General Staff Dan Shomron said he heard the plane 4:45 a.m. That was the last sign of him. Eventually the mechanics woke up to prepare the plane for its early morning flight and discovered it had disappeared. They looked around for it, but in vain. Someone went to wake up the pilot — and realised he was gone as well.

The search covered the entire country and coast. Experts have been examining the radar tapes, Bin-Nun said. Some 20 crop dusters were in the air that morning and the Air Force is now trying to determine who was where and distinguish which radar bleep was the Dornier's.

Bin-Nun quoted the pilot's wife as having said their relations were good and that they had made plans to meet on Friday afternoon. The pilot's comrades in the squadron also reported no irregular behaviour: "We found nothing that was suspiciously odd. He liked to be alone, to hike, he knew the wadis and creeks and that's why we searched there to see if maybe he flew to a secluded place."

If the pilot crashed at sea, the plane's wings and possibly other parts will eventually float.

Rebels reject Najibullah's offer of powersharing

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Insurgents have dismissed Afghan President Najibullah's offer to relinquish some of his sweeping powers as mere propaganda.

"Najibullah is a war criminal. His offer is completely and totally unacceptable. He must be removed completely," said Najibullah Lafrey, a spokesman for a provisional rebel government headquartered in Pakistan.

But diplomatic sources said Najibullah's offer could improve the odds of a political peace pact when senior Soviet and U.S. officials meet Wednesday. The offer was reportedly made in an interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC).

The 12-year war between insurgents, who are bankrolled by Washington, and Afghanistan's Soviet-style government is expected to dominate the Paris talks. Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze will lead their respective delegations.

Diplomats who spoke on the condition of anonymity said Washington is ready to allow Najibullah to remain as president, but in name only.

But even that concession from Washington would have been un-

thinkable 17 months ago, when the last Soviet troops left Afghanistan after nine years of direct intervention.

A meeting last week in Rome between Peter Tomsen, U.S. special envoy to the Afghan rebels, and ex-king Zahir Shah was seen as another compromise from Washington, according to several Western and Afghan sources.

U.S. embassy officials refused to confirm or deny the meeting. The former monarch has been touted as the only Afghan able to unite the nation's warring factions, with the exception of the Islamic fundamentalists. However, those fundamentalists have threatened to kill Zahir Shah if he returns.

Meanwhile, Western diplomats eyed Najibullah's offer to relinquish power warily.

One diplomat said the offer is useful only if he surrendered control of the military, secret police, and media. An acceptable legislative body has to be established to assume the power Najibullah relinquishes, he added.

The composition of that body remains a stumbling block. Washington has regularly rejected Najibullah's offer of a coalition government.

U.N. chief reiterates concern over occupied territories

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar has called in the five powers on the U.N. Security Council to reiterate his concern about the worsening situation in the Israeli-occupied territories, diplomatic sources said.

The U.N. chief took the unusual step of briefing the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain, France and China late Monday after he had already addressed the full 15-nation council in closed session on reports from his envoy who recently visited the occupied territories.

According to diplomats close to the meeting, the U.N. chief wanted the five to become more closely involved on ways to provide protection to the Palestinian population on the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The United States recently vetoed Security Council action in the occupied territories and some diplomats speculated Perez de Cuellar hoped Washington in future would support some kind of U.N. measures to ease tensions.

Perez de Cuellar was reported to be concerned about allegations of nighttime raids on Palestinian homes, collective punishment

and vigilante groups in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Spokesman Francois Giuliani said that the secretary general's envoy, Jean-Claude Aime of Haiti, who visited Israel and the occupied territories from June 22 to July 1, would return again but no date had been set.

Arab states have been pressing for council involvement since the three-year old Palestinian uprising erupted in a new round of violence after the May 20 killings of seven Palestinians by an Israeli gunman.

The United States on May 31 vetoed a council resolution to despatch a mission to the occupied territories and recommend ways of protecting the Palestinian inhabitants.

At the time, U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering said the resolution could be "misused to generate needless controversy and dispute in the area."

Subsequently, Israel, in an apparent effort to defuse Arab demands, issued an invitation for Aime, a senior official in the secretary general's office, to visit the occupied territories.

Since the veto, Arab states have been considering calling for

a special session of the General Assembly under a rarely used procedure for obtaining action by that body if the council is paralyzed.

The Arab diplomats here have met several times over the past week to discuss strategy but have not yet come to a decision.

11 shot and wounded

Israeli troops shot and wounded 11 Palestinian protesters in the occupied Gaza Strip Monday and entered Rafah town and refugee camp for the first time in months to order residents to erase Palestinian nationalist graffiti.

Hospital officials said soldiers wounded eight Arabs in the Rafah area on the Egyptian border, two in Nuseirat camp and one in Bureij camp.

Rafah residents said troops raided the town and refugee camp before dawn and ordered people out of their homes to whitewash nationalist graffiti, remove Palestinian flags and clean the streets.

After the army withdrew, dozens of masked activists returned to the streets to paint new slogans.

Israel reacts cautiously to Syrian flexibility

TEL AVIV (AP) — Government officials reacted cautiously but positively Tuesday to reports that Syria may be willing to consider peace talks.

Both officials and analysts expressed hope that remarks attributed to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad were a sign that Syria was changing its stance to talk of peace instead of war.

The comments here followed a report Monday by the Paris-based Radio Monte Carlo that Assad indicated willingness to join peace negotiations on condition Israel withdraws from the Golan Heights and agrees to an international conference on the region.

Monte Carlo said Assad's statements came during his historic three-day meeting in Alexandria with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

It was Assad's first visit to Egypt in 17 years and further cemented renewed Syrian relations with Egypt that had been broken at the start of U.S.-brokered moves leading to the Egyptian-Israeli treaty.

At a news conference in Alexandria, Assad said he and Mubarak "are not disagreement on the importance that there should be a serious move towards peace." He said he was ready to play a role in the peace process if unspecified "circumstances" came about.

Assad said he accepted U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, which call for Israel's withdrawal from the land occupied in the 1967 war and security guarantees for all countries in the region, including Israel.

Israeli newspapers Tuesday, however, all quoted the Monte Carlo report with more specific statements about willingness to join in peace talks.

The papers speculated that the response may have been to a secret Israeli initiative relayed through Mubarak. The daily HadaShot said the secret offer called for a non-belligerence pact followed by negotiations on establishing Israeli-Syrian relations.

However, aides to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir Tuesday denied the prime minister sent any message through Mubarak.

Still, foreign ministry spokesman Moti Amichai noted in an official statement that Shamir in an interview last month with an Egyptian weekly invited Assad for talks "without preconditions."

He added that if reports of Assad's willingness to talk were true, "we view every indication of Syrian readiness to negotiate peace as positive."

Benjamin Netanyahu, deputy foreign minister, told Israeli radio that the Jewish state has no first-hand information about Assad's reported statements in Egypt.

While rejecting any preconditions for talks, Netanyahu said Israel was eager for any shift in Syria's hostile position.

"We are very interested to break that circle and start political negotiations for peace with Syria," he told Israeli's army radio.

It was the second positive signal from Syria this year. In March, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter arrived in Israel from a visit to Syria and said Assad was prepared to enter into talks with Israel after the convening of an international conference on Middle East peace.

Israel opposes such a conference.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

| JORDAN TELEVISION | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Tel: 773111-19 | |
| PROGRAMME ONE | |
| 15:30 | Koran |
| 15:40 | Programme review |
| 15:45 | Children's programme |
| 17:30 | Educational programme |
| 18:00 | News summary in Arabic |
| 18:05 | Cairo news message |
| 18:30 | Local programme |
| 20:00 | News in Arabic |
| 20:30 | Arabic series |
| 21:30 | Arabic programme |
| 23:00 | News in Arabic |
| 23:40 | Play |
| PROGRAMME TWO | |
| 18:00 | L'Ami Mappassant |
| 19:00 | News in French |
| 19:15 | French varieties |
| 19:30 | News in Hebrew |
| 20:00 | News in Arabic |
| 20:30 | You Rang M'Lord |
| 21:10 | Doc. "My Best Friend is a Computer" |
| 22:00 | News in English |
| 22:30 | Summer Lease |
| PRAYER TIMES | |
| 04:05 | Fajr |
| 05:37 | (Sunrise) Duha |
| 12:42 | Dhuhr |
| 16:22 | Asr |
| 19:47 | Maghreb |
| 21:19 | Isha |

| CHURCHES | |
|--|---------|
| St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetlah, Tel. 810740 | |
| Assumption of God Church, Tel. 632785 | |
| St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590 | |
| Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440 | |
| De la Salle Church Tel. 661757 | |
| Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366 | |
| Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541 | |
| Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 626543 | |
| Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331 | |
| Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261 | |
| St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751 | |
| Assuan International Church Tel. 685326 | |
| Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811255 | |
| The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932 | |
| WEATHER | |
| Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology | |
| Normal summer weather will prevail and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm. | |
| Min./max. temp. | |
| Amman | 20 / 33 |

| USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS | |
|--------------------------|----------|
| NIGHT DUTY | |
| AMMAN: | |
| Dr. Amir Al Ashhab | 602507 |
| Dr. Ahmad Othman | 785384 |
| Dr. Isam Abu Risa | 681967 |
| Dr. Wa'el Dumasi | (-) |
| First Pharmacy | 661912 |
| Ferdous pharmacy | 783336 |
| Al Asasa pharmacy | 657055 |
| Nasrallah pharmacy | 623672 |
| Al Solan pharmacy | 636720 |
| Yessou pharmacy | 644945 |
| Shamsi pharmacy | 637660 |
| JERUSALEM: | |
| Dr. Ahmad Bishtawi | (-) |
| Al Shams pharmacy | (985238) |
| ZARQA: | |
| Dr. Youssef Abu Saad | (-) |

| HOSPITALS | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| AMMAN: | |
| Husseini Medical Centre | 61381332 |
| Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn | 644281/6 |
| Alkhal Maternity, J. Amn | 642441/2 |
| Jabal Amman Maternity | 642362 |
| Mallouh, J. Amman | 631400 |
| Palestine, Shamsi | 664171/4 |
| Shamsi Hospital | 669131 |
| University Hospital | 845845 |
| Al-Mushter Hospital | 667227/9 |
| Al-Ahli, Abdali | 666127/57 |
| Al-Ahli, Abdali | 666164/6 |
| Islamic, Al-Muhajir | 777010/3 |
| Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafish | 751111/26 |
| Army, Marka | 691611/15 |
| Queen Alia Hospital | 602240/50 |
| Amal Hospital | 674155 |
| ZARQA: | |
| Zarqa Govt. Hospital | (09)983323 |
| Zarqa National Hospital | (09)991071 |
| Ibn Al Nafies Hospital | (09)986732 |
| JERUSALEM: | |
| Princess Basma Hospital | (02)275555 |
| Greek Catholic Hospital | (02)272725 |
| Ibn Al Nafies Hospital | (02)247100 |
| AQAABA: | |
| Princess Haya Hospital | (03)314111 |

| FOR THE TRAVELLER | |
|---|-----------------------|
| QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT | |
| ARRIVALS | |
| Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1) | |
| 10:00 | Damascus (RJ) |
| 10:00 | Jeddah (RJ) |
| 10:30 | Larnaca (RJ) |
| 10:45 | Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ) |
| 10:55 | Doha, Bahrain (RJ) |
| 11:00 | Cairo (RJ) |
| 11:30 | London (RJ) |
| 11:30 | Madrid (RJ) |
| 11:40 | New York (RJ) |
| 11:45 | Cairo (RJ) |
| 11:50 | Bahrein, Doha (RJ) |
| 12:00 | Frankfurt (RJ) |
| 12:05 | Brussels, Rome (RJ) |
| 12:30 | Paris, Geneva (RJ) |
| Other Flights (Terminal 2) | |
| 09:30 | Larnaca, Zurich (SR) |
| 09:35 | Belux (MS) |
| 10:25 | Rome (AZ) |
| 11:00 | Baghdad (IA) |
| 11:45 | Larnaca (CY) |
| 12:00 | Jeddah (SV) |
| 12:00 | Baghdad (LN) |
| 14:00 | Jeddah, Sana'a (TY) |

| | |
|-------|----------------------------|
| 13:20 | Cairo (MS) |
| 14:30 | Kuwait (KU) |
| 15:00 | Dubai (EK) |
| 16:00 | Athens (TK) |
| 19:05 | Kuwait (add.) (KU) |
| 19:25 | Frankfurt (LH) |
| 20:55 | Damascus (PK) |
| 22:30 | Paris, Damascus (AF) |

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

| | |
|-------|--------------------------------|
| 12:00 | Cairo (RJ) |
| 12:15 | Amsterdam, New York (RJ) |
| 12:30 | Tunis, Casablanca (RJ) |
| 13:00 | London (RJ) |
| 14:00 | Baghdad (RJ) |
| 17:15 | Aqaba (RJ) |
| 19:30 | Moscow (add.) (RJ) |
| 21:00 | Kuwait (RJ) |
| 22:00 | Riyadh (RJ) |
| 21:10 | New Delhi (RJ) |
| 21:20 | Cairo (RJ) |
| 21:45 | Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ) |
| 22:45 | Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ) |
| 03:30 | Bahrain, Doha (RJ) |

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

| | |
|-------|----------------------------|
| 00:35 | Larnaca, Zurich (SR) |
| 08:15 | Beirut (ME) |
| 10:25 | Rome (AZ) |
| 11:00 | Baghdad (IA) |
| 11:45 | Larnaca (CV) |
| 12:40 | Jeddah (SV) |
| 13:00 | Bangkok (LN) |
| 14:00 | Cairo (MS) |
| 14:15 | Jeddah, Sana'a (YX) |

Jordan W. Germany discuss cooperation in archaeology

AMMAN (Petra) — Cooperation in tourism and archaeology between West Germany and Jordan were discussed at a meeting here Tuesday between German Ambassador to Jordan Herwig Bartsch and Minister of Tourism Abdul Karim Al Kabarti.

The two also discussed the question of extending West German assistance to Jordan for developing the Dead Sea coast for tourism purposes and the involvement of the West German private sector in this project.

Kabarti thanked the ambassador for Bonn's continued technical assistance to help Jordan restore the Umm Qais archaeological site near Irbid and its contributions towards restoring two ancient buildings, one to be transformed into a museum, the other to serve as a centre for excavation projects.

West Germany is also currently helping Jordan restore a third building used as a reception centre for visitors to Jordan and several West German archaeological teams in the Kingdom are taking part in national excavation efforts at the various archaeological sites.

Jordan urges ACC cooperation in trade

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Tuesday urged its three partners in the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) to give priority to trade to products of the four Arab countries and to impose a minimum tariff on exchanged products.

"This views were projected by Ministry of Industry and Trade's Secretary-General Ibrahim Badran at the opening of an ACC meeting called to pave the way for Wednesday's ministerial meeting and discuss cooperation in economy, trade and supply matters."

"ACC members are called on to implement their economic agreement in stages to ensure a common market within the ACC group," Badran said.

Referring to Arab trade, Badran said that inter-Arab trade accounts only for five per cent of the total trade between the Arab World and the foreign countries, a situation which calls for speedy action to increase trade between Arab states and reduce reliance on foreign nations.

"Increased Arab trading can come about through the three Arab economic groupings: the ACC, the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Maghreb Union," Badran added.

"Through integrated markets and close economic cooperation the ACC can forge ahead and boost its exporting power," Badran added.

The ministers of trade, economy and supply meeting here Wednesday evening will study recommendations and decisions taken by their undersecretaries at Tuesday's discussions.

Jordan Times
Tel: 667171

'Arts, poetry and literary criticism are part of culture, indispensable to any civilisation'

By Basem Sakikjha
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — It is no secret that the members of the Islamic movement (Muslim Brotherhood) in the Lower House of Parliament together with four other deputies have recently called for a boycott of the Jerash Festival claiming that it "is no dedication to serious efforts in a steadfast country like Jordan."

A statement calling for the boycott and signed by the 26 Muslim Brotherhood deputies was sent in a form of a letter to Prime Minister Mudar Badran. It ran as follows: "With bleeding hearts we watch elements of corruption in this country pursuing their efforts to spread corruption by inviting to the country troupes of male and female dancers while our enemy is going ahead with plans to bring in large numbers of emigrants and fighters ..."

The statement considered the Jerash Festival for Culture and Arts as an expression of disregard to the souls of Arab martyrs.

The Muslim Brotherhood deputies had demanded, in a memorandum sent to the Prime Minister two months ago, that the Jerash Festival among other things in Jordan be scrapped.

The Prime Minister replied that the festival, in his view, was representing Jordan's cultural image and its events

are all reflecting matters of culture, literature and art and can by no means represent improper behaviour.

Workshippers attending prayers during the past Eid Al Adha in several mosques reported that the Jerash Festival was the centre of criticism in many sermons at a time when last time preparations were underway for the opening of the ninth Jerash Festival.

Visitors to the festival this year reported that fewer people called at the archaeological site to watch the events compared to the previous year, but there were conflicting views about the reasons behind the decline.

Muslim Brotherhood sources attributed the drop in the number of visitors to their own campaign directed against the annual festival, while the festival organisers contend that the events expected to attract large crowds have not yet begun.

The past three days have witnessed a steady increase in the number of visitors to the Jerash Festival and tickets for events scheduled for the coming week are about to be completely sold out, the organisers said.

Commenting on the Muslim Brotherhood's statement, the organisers expressed their surprise at the hostile campaign which, they say, came at a time when Jordanians are entering a new phase in political life when no group should impose its

views on another.

They say it is important for Jordan to pursue the trend of openness to other cultures and to accept other nations' art and culture so that it can achieve an interaction among various cultures. Regression, they add, can only result in backwardness.

"It is astonishing to hear the Muslim Brotherhood deputies comparing those wishing to spread culture with those involved in corruption cases," the organisers say.

They say that singing, ballet dancing and theatre acting are all very refined and sublime arts and poetry and literary criticism are part of culture, indispensable to any civilisation.

A visit by Al Ra'i and the Jordan Times inside the Jerash site revealed that most of the visitors had come from neighbouring Arab countries. There are also non-Arab tourists who are currently on a visit to Jordan.

The reporters heard the views of the visitors who stressed that their visit to Jordan this year was specifically done for the purpose of attending the events at the Jerash Festival. One American tourist said that he had always dreamed of watching Soviet ballet and the Jerash Festival helped make his dream come true.

A Jordanian poet told Al Ra'i and the Jordan Times that the Jerash Festival demonstrated an important aspect of

Jordan's cultural life and therefore it must be supported by all means. He criticised nevertheless the quality presented at this year's festival, saying that constructive criticism can by no means harm the festival and its objectives.

The poet said that the festival's management seemed to have been affected by the hostile campaign and this was reflected in the quality of the events.

An official representing the festival's management said that the government has provided nothing in support of this year's festival and Royal Jordanian, which used to contribute a great deal, restricted its contributions this year to 35 air tickets to bring in the members of the participating folk troupes.

"It is very important, in the light of this campaign, that this festival be operated on purely commercial basis, and indeed there are tens of firms ready to take over the project and make large profits," the official added.

But this view was opposed by Jordanian intellectuals and writers who call for the government's support for the festival because it will help deepen cultural interaction.

Some observers believe that the festival has now entered the survival stage and they consider this year's events decisive for its future which could bear indications for the future of Jordan itself.



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Tuesday chairs a training seminar for women teachers in kindergartens (Petra photo)

Seminar aims at raising standard of kindergartens

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma said Tuesday that Jordan, assisted by a number of organisations, had succeeded in directing social and educational services to the rural as well as urban areas of Jordan over the past five decades.

"The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) should be commended for its efforts to provide direct and indirect assistance to the various local organisations and voluntary societies in the process of reducing infant mortality rates and improving the quality of services for children," the Princess said at the opening of a special training seminar for women teachers employed in kindergartens.

"Providing women teachers

with the essential skills in teaching and training children is part of the national educational process designed to serve children at the pre-school stage," said the Princess in her speech.

She said that Jordan has been paying special attention to bringing up children and is now turning more and more attention to children in the rural regions of the Kingdom.

Princess Basma is chairperson of the board of trustees of the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF) which is organising the seminar in cooperation with UNICEF.

Minister of Education Mohammad Hamdan said the training seminar aimed at raising the standards of teachers in kindergartens

with the help of specialists from Jordan and world organisations. He too praised efforts exerted by UNICEF in helping provide care and protection for children at the pre-school stage which he described as the most sensitive stage in children's life.

Sarajini Abraham, who represented UNICEF at the meeting, referred to Jordan's endeavours in the mother and child care fields. She paid tribute to Jordan for its decision to host a meeting on children in Amman next month as part of pan-Arab preparations for the world summit for children to be held in New York in September.

A total of 65 women teachers are taking part in the seminar which will last seven days.



IRAQI CELEBRATION: Iraqi Ambassador Nouri Ismail Al Weli Tuesday hosted a reception marking the anniversary of the assumption of power by the ruling Arab Baath Socialist Party in Iraq. The reception was attended by Parliament speakers, ministers, deputies and senior officials as well as diplomats and leading Jordanian and Palestinian personalities (Petra photo)

Arab team, Moscow hold talks on Middle East issues

AMMAN (Petra) — First Deputy Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Jamal Sarairoh Tuesday returned home from Moscow where he took part in the Arab-Soviet parliamentarians meeting which took place there between July 11 to 16.

In an arrival statement, Sarairoh said that the meeting discussed Arab-Soviet parliamentary relations and regional and international issues, including the Palestinian and Lebanese questions.

He pointed out that the meeting came out with a joint statement, stressing the need for holding an international peace conference

on the Middle East under the auspices of the United Nations.

The statement also reiterated the need for ensuring the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, voiced support for the Palestinian uprising and denounced the Israeli oppressive measures against the Palestinian people.

Sarairoh added that the parliamentarians also discussed the Soviet-Jewish immigration to Palestine, considering their settlement in the Palestinian territory as a flagrant violation of the provisions of the 4th Geneva Convention and the United Nations

resolutions.

The two sides also expressed their deep concern over the situation in Lebanon and called for implementing the Taif agreement. They also voiced their full satisfaction with the resumption of direct dialogue between Iraq and Iran in a bid to reach a peaceful settlement to their dispute, along the line of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 598.

Taking part in the meeting were parliamentarians from Jordan, Tunisia, Iraq, Palestine, Libya, Egypt, and the general secretariat of the Arab Parliamentary Union (APU).

Jordan urges ACC monetary integration

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Tuesday urged its partners in the four-member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) to embark on serious steps leading to monetary integration within ACC, a process which can be achieved in stages.

The call was made by the Governor of the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ), Mohammad Saeed Al Nabulsi at the opening session of a meeting by central banks governors in Iraq, Yemen, Egypt and Jordan, called to discuss means of promoting monetary coordination and attaining integration.

"At present, ACC member states have some kind of agreement which helps the process of currency convertibility between them, but what is needed is the creation of a unified monetary system based on one form of currency, following a centralised monetary system," Nabulsi said.

"Despite a great improvement in the Arab World's currency systems, largely due to the efforts of the Arab Monetary Fund, the achievements fall far below the aspired levels of coordination, and this is manifested in the fact that the Arab countries rely more on their trade exchanges with the outside world rather than inter-Arab trade and the Arab invest-

ments are mainly made abroad," Nabulsi added.

According to Nabulsi, certain steps can be taken to achieve integration among the four ACC members. These, he said, can take the form of more serious efforts for settling trade payments and financing trade transactions, facilitating the exchange of capital and funds and encouraging joint investments as well as the establishment of a joint development organisation which can facilitate the exchange of information and expertise to handle problems pertaining to foreign debt and banking problems.

"The political and economic developments in the world in general and the Eastern European nations in particular over the past two years, in addition to the creation of united Europe in 1992 and economic groupings around the world emphasise the fact that various countries are seeking integration in all fields and remind the ACC states of their responsibility to follow in the same footsteps," Nabulsi said.

He said that monetary integration is an inevitable step if the ACC countries wish to avoid lagging behind other nations and to bridge the gap now separating the third world from the advanced

countries of the world.

ACC Secretary-General Hilmi Nammur advocated the idea of creating a joint ACC bank and said he had prepared a working paper for the meeting expounding the idea as a positive step towards arriving at a unified monetary system for ACC countries.

Nammur said that an economic agreement reached earlier by the four states called for trade exchanges, encouragement of joint ventures and the investment of Arab capital in the ACC states. "In order for this to be achieved the ACC states should have an integrated monetary system which can, among other things, settle trade payments, finance services and encourage trade," Nammur said.

He said that the creation of a joint ACC bank or the setting up of a joint clearing pool to settle the trade and services payments within the ACC group can help ACC states arrive at the aspired integrated system.

"The Arabs have to rely on their own resources and capital for investing in different schemes since western capital could now be channelled to Eastern European states and not to the third world nations with the recent developments in Europe," Nammur



Mohammad Saeed Al Nabulsi mar warned.

He said that the Arabs have no alternative but to rely more on their inter-trade relations and save hard currency.

The central bank governors of Egypt, Yemen and Iraq also delivered speeches at the opening session, supporting the idea of a joint bank to achieve monetary coordination.

After the first meeting the governors called on Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Salem Masaadeh to brief him on the topics to be discussed during the meetings.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zaru displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosenthal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).
- Exhibitions of ceramics, paintings by Gastone Primoni at Alla Art Gallery.
- Plastic art exhibition by Radeina and Ruba Haddad at the Housing Bank Complex hall.
- Photo exhibition entitled "Jordan — Mysteries and Shadows" by Oumal student Mohammad Bin Mahdi Bin Jawad at Yarmouk University.
- Plastic art exhibition by deaf artist Khaled Mahmoud Attyeh at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- Exhibition of paintings by ten Iraqi artists at the Jordan Plastic Art Association Gallery — tel. No. 699914.

JERASH FESTIVAL

- Concert by the Syrian troupe Umayyah at the South Theatre — 8:30 p.m.
- Concerts by the Jordan Armed Forces Band (6:00 - 7:00 p.m.), a local folk troupe (7:00 - 8:00) and a Yugoslav folk troupe (8:30 - 9:30 p.m.) at the Forum.
- Poets and poetry at Artemis Steps (7:00 - 9:00 p.m.)

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Jordan, China discuss cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Minister of Civil Affairs in China Chang Dejiang arrived in Amman Tuesday at the head of an official team for a week-long official visit to Jordan. He will meet with Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Salem Masaadeh and Minister of Social Development Abdul Majid Al Shreideh for discussions on social affairs cooperation between China and Jordan. The Chinese team will also visit the Civil Defence facilities and discuss prospects for bilateral cooperation. Civil Defence Department (CDD) Director-General Major General Afif Al Ghoul, senior CDD officers and China's Ambassador to Jordan Chiang Liang met the delegation at the airport.

Ma'in spa board dissolved

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Trade and Industry Ziad Fariz decided Tuesday to dissolve the board of directors of the Jordan Tourism and Mineral Waters Company — of Ma'in Health Spa — and formed a committee to run the company for one year as of July 15, 1990. The committee comprises Ziad Innab as chairman, Saleh Al Rifa'i as representative for Jordan Investment Corporation, Mahmoud Al Hamawi the Housing Bank, Tayseer Wabbeh for the Industrial Development Bank, Ghazi Batarseh for the Ministry of Trade and Industry and a representative for the Ministry of Tourism. Fariz charged the committee with studying the status of the company so as to present proposals for solving its problems.

Jordan Times
Tel: 667171



The Private Services Development Project (PSDP) will be sponsoring a three day **Tourism Marketing Workshop** from 22-24 July 1990 at the Jordan Inter-Continental Hotel, featuring international experts from The World Trade Institute of New York. Special attention will be given to:

- MARKETING PLANS
- TOUR OPERATORS
- TRANSPORTATION SERVICES
- TRAVEL AGENTS
- RESTAURANTS/CATERING
- HOTEL OPERATIONS

Registration fee: J.D. 60,000
Duration: Three Days (Lunches Provided)
For Information Concerning Registration Please Contact:

Tel: 686945 Fax 686947
P.O. Box 830348 (Zahran)

KAROLINE

Al Hayat
الحياة

Al Hayat the healthy refreshing drink, from Karoline

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

جوردين تايمز يومية عربية سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية

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Editor-in-Chief:

GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,

University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

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War is coming, but avoidable

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein very accurately described the situation in the Middle East region when he said that the "area seems to be facing a very bleak and very dangerous future at this point." Indeed, the situation today is very similar to pre-1967 days. With the Palestinian intifada intensifying, the influx of hundreds of thousands of Jewish immigrants and with the rise in extremism on both sides of the Arab-Israeli conflict, all the ingredients are there for a destructive war in the Middle East. However, and as some analysts maintain, the next Middle East war might not occur this year or the next. The war, it seems, will be delayed until the hundreds of thousands of Jewish immigrants are settled in Palestine; and when they, as Israeli citizens, start flooding the settlements of the West Bank and pushing the Palestinians out. By that time, the struggle over the region's scarce water resources would have intensified and extremism on both sides would have gained more ground. By 1992 all the ingredients for war will be fully ripe. That is why King Hussein wants the Americans, the Soviets and all the big powers to look at the situation more seriously and to move and consolidate their moves before it is too late. The next war in the Middle East will be a bloody one, one that humanity did not experience before. All the weapons of destruction are already piled in the region and more is coming. That is why, we in the Arab World, want to avoid war. Palestinians and Arabs have already made all the concessions necessary for peace, including recognition of Israel. The only thing we are asking Israel and America to accept is recognition of Palestinian rights. We are not calling for war; we abhor it. It brings destruction and misery to all the peoples of the region. But we are defending our rights — the rights of the Arabs in Arab land and in Arab water. We respect all people's choice to move freely and to freely choose where to find a new home. But, as the King said, we fail to see how everyone, Jewish and Palestinian, is going to fit in tiny Palestine, especially when Jewish immigrants are being denied other destinations of their choice. The U.S., the champion of Soviet Jews' human rights, has a moral responsibility in the region. It must do all that in its power to avert the region the horrors of war, if not for the sake of the Arabs, then for the sake of its Israeli friends.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

All three Arabic daily newspapers Tuesday discussed several points in Prime Minister Mudar Badran's statements to the Kuwaiti Al Siyassah newspaper.

Al Ra'i daily said that Badran stressed three important responsibilities should be the Kingdom: Confronting the economic crisis, enhancing the democratic process and ensuring protection to the Arab Order. The paper said that Jordan has been facing economic difficulties at a time when its attention was also directed towards protecting the nation against aggression, and striving to help Palestinians regain their rights and their homeland. The prime minister made it clear that no pressure and no temptation of any kind could divert Jordan from its national responsibilities and turn it away from its duty, the paper continued. Jordan, Badran said, will remain totally committed to the Arab cause; and any attempt to discourage Jordan from this course will end up in failure, the paper added. The paper said that Jordan continues to face pressures and monitors the Israeli enemy hatching plots for expansion and aggression, at the expense of the Arab Nation. For this reason, the paper added, this country is determined to acquire all means for defence, for development and for enhancing the process of democracy with the help of Arab countries and through the efforts of the Jordanian people.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Tuesday praises the International Organisation of Journalists (IOJ) for choosing Amman as a venue for its executive committee meeting in October. Mahmoud Rimawi says that it is because of the democratic atmosphere which this country is now enjoying, and the principles it holds that prompted the organisation to decide on meeting here to discuss a host of very important subjects of concern not only to the journalists but to nations at large. The writer says that the Jordanian government's policies have opened the way for great relaxation in political and public life in the Kingdom, and earned the Kingdom more friends and further credibility in the eyes of the world. This, he says, is bound to have beneficial and positive results on Arab causes worldwide, and can only win the support of world organisations for Arab just causes, says Rimawi. The prominent status of Jordan is bound to help remove all illusions about Israel and its claims that it serves as an oasis of democracy in the heart of the Arab World; and the coming meeting will certainly focus world public attention on Jordan's democratic march and its endeavours for peace and stability in the region, the writer adds. While waiting for that meeting, says the writer, the people of Jordan hope that the government will scrap the remainder of the martial law that has existed in Jordan over the past two decades so that the ground will be paved for political pluralism and the emergence of political parties which enhance the concept of democracy.

Al Dustour daily said that Prime Minister Mudar Badran tackled all issues of concern not only to Jordan but to Arab countries as well as in his statement published in Al Siyassah daily of Kuwait. The paper echoed Badran's statement that Palestine remains the focal point in Jordan's policies, and the main concern of its people, prompting the government to act in a manner that would bolster the Palestinian struggle and steadfastness. The paper said that Jordan is aware of its heavy responsibilities as it strives to remedy its economy and enhance the process of democracy, but it will never abandon an inch of Palestinian land, nor will it ever shirk its responsibilities, duties and commitments to the Arab nation.

Economic Forum

Prices of land and houses: Makings of a new trend

By Dr. Abdalla Malki

STARTING last spring, prices of land and housing units began to rise after being depressed for a number of years. Most probably, these prices will continue to rise during the coming twelve months. If no dramatic developments take place in the economic arena, to the better or to the worse, my impression is that a trend of moderate but steady rise in land and housing unit prices will be established thereafter. To understand the main forces which shape developments in the land and property market one has to recount certain economic facts.

Demand, in a robust type, does not spill into the land and property sector unless there is a remarkable financial surplus in the economy. This means that the economy has to be liquid enough in order to be able to afford investing in

housing and speculating in land. A financial surplus means healthy saving levels; healthy enough to satisfy spending on small necessary needs and to generate extra funds capable of paying for very big-ticket items like cars, land and houses.

Obviously that was the story of the Japanese who used their current account accumulated surpluses to finance a land boom in Japan and to "buy part of America." It is also the story of most Arab countries in the great oil boom of the seventies. The mammoth income generated by the oil price explosion created financial surpluses which started to chase all sorts of goods and services including land and buildings: prices thus soared beyond imagination and land speculation

was phenomenal. Both speculators and real investors were attracted to this sector.

Investing in construction such as buildings and the tandem land is highly capital-intensive. The incremental capital/output ratio (ICOR) measures the number of capital units needed to produce one unit of income. For the economy as a whole, ICOR is normally in the range of 3 to 4; for the construction sector, ICOR goes up to 10 and even to 14. This is why investment in buildings and the related land needs huge amounts of capital. A poor country or an economy squeezed for liquidity cannot therefore create the demand necessary to activate the land and housing sector. During the last few years and mainly due to the economic recession but also due to the devaluation

effects of the Jordanian dinar, which impoverished the people and made them give priority to spending on basic needs — on boarding and on bank deposits held inside the country and abroad — the Jordanian economy naturally failed to generate the sort of demand which could prop up the land and housing sector which slumped as a result. This cycle seems to have ended; something is happening since last spring and is leading to a gradual revival of this sector. What were the reasons behind this development?

First of all there was a massive shift of investment to holding dollar balances on the expense of all other types of indirect (financial) and direct investments denominated in Jordanian dinars because confidence in the Jordanian eco-

nomy was being shaken. This shift was accentuated by the fact that inflation was still in the embryonic stage and therefore, there was no rush to real assets. It seems that this trend lasted until the end of 1989: In the process, pent-up demand for land and houses was building up. Now that all these trends have been reversed, the situation started to change. The collapse of confidence in the Jordanian dinar and economy was halted, the restoration of confidence has been started thanks mainly to the stabilisation of the exchange rate of the dinar, and inflation has erupted. Consequently, the above-mentioned pent-up demand has been released and started to bid up the prices of land and housing units.

An added reason must be

that non-residents, especially Jordanians working abroad, have found that land plots and houses in Jordan became inexpensive in terms of other currencies. However, this advantage will be eroded proportionately with the increase in prices and is bound to be worked out soon, probably during the next twelve months. Thus what happened in the land and property market was some sort of a lagged price correction. Beyond the short run, prices in this sector will continue to rise at a steady rate commensurate with the rates of inflation and the run from money to physical assets. And this is a healthy development, barring, of course, excessive rises, that might ignite frenzied speculation and distort and abort real investments in this sector.

King: War could erupt

(Continued from page 1)

Q: The concerns have been raised about the movement, of Soviet emigres into the occupied lands, but in fact, only about few thousands are on the West Bank now, and about 4,000 are in the east of Jerusalem, so it seems to be a minor problem in comparison to the numbers. Why are you so concerned about the immigration?

A: Well, we're concerned because of the fact that until now such a number may have arrived out of about 60,000. There is predicted to be about a million over the next 18 months. I don't see where they will settle. The space is very very limited and at the same time, the question of human rights here is rather unclear because these people are not permitted to go wherever they choose. They are only funnelled into Israel, and Israeli law gives them the right to become citizens the moment they arrive in Israel.

Q: Are you concerned that Palestinians might actually be pushed over into Jordan and thereby increase the number of Palestinians in your country?

A: I am not concerned that they'll be pushed into Jordan, I'm concerned that they'll lose their human rights, their rights on their soil.

Q: And then the potential for an explosion is very much there? Let me pursue that a little further because you used very careful terms. You say an explosion, you say a bleak and a dangerous period, but I'm not clear exactly what that means. Does that mean that one side or the other will then move directly toward war?

A: I think that the potential, knowing the ground, the needs within this area, the limitations of what is available, even in terms of water, makes it impossible to see how every one is going to fit in without something happening.

Q: And what might that be. What form could that take? Are you suggesting that on the Arab side there might be an aggressive movement?

Q: I don't think that the Arabs had been aggressive over many many years. They've been seeking peace, but on the other hand, it is on the Israeli side that the problem is.

Q: You compare this at one point to the situation in 1967 which of course led to the six-day war. Is this similar to that?

A: It is almost similar to it. Yes, it seems to be a funnel towards which every is moving, and a very dangerous one it is. We don't seem to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

Q: Your Majesty, at the recent Arab summit, there were communications issued that were quite critical of the U.S. policy. Do you share those harsh words?

A: I was a part of that summit, and I share the concern over the U.S.'s inability so far to address itself to this problem. I believe the U.S. has a great moral responsibility greater than ever before to solve this problem before it is too late.

Q: You say inability, do you actually mean that the U.S. is unwilling to address it in a way that is satisfactory?

A: It seems so for the time being what are they doing wrong. They are doing nothing, very much indeed. They are in touch with the Israeli government. They've stopped talking to the Palestinians and their legitimate representation and the situation is getting worse all the time.

Q: What would you suggest that the U.S. do for the moment?

A: I think review the situation in the area which is so important to the world and to the U.S. in terms of the human dimension, in terms of the resources that the

world needs in this area as well. Q: Your Majesty, forgive me, but with all due respect your review, of the situation is a very broad sort of statement, specifically what would you like the U.S. to do to solve what is a terrible impasse?

A: I believe that the U.S. must be in touch with the Palestinians and their sole legitimate representatives. I believe that the U.S. should probably move towards internationalising the problem and seek the help may be of the other permanent members of the Security Council to resolve the problem.

Q: Right now the peace process has broken down rather drastically. Does that increase the likelihood that Jordan can play a more important role than you have in the last two years?

A: No sir. We can't replace the Palestinians. It is their right, it is their land. We support them to the best of our ability, but nothing more.

Q: Well, in fact, Yasser Arafat of the PLO has already said that he is willing to recognise the right of Israel to exist: Jordan has not, why?

A: Yes, we have, we have indeed. We have since we accepted the Security Council Resolution 242.

Q: Would you be willing to negotiate directly with Israel?

A: I can't negotiate on behalf of the Palestinians. No.

Q: Tell me, the form you'd like to see for us in a state now where the Israelis are moving forward in a direction that you wouldn't like and what I am looking forward here is where the ground might actually be to break the stalemate.

A: I believe that to break the stalemate we have to move to an international conference with the five permanent members of the Security Council and all parties to the conflict, including the Palestinians and the PLO.

Q: You have moved more closely (forgive me if I am not putting this in a way satisfactory to you) towards Iraq over this time. Is the movement of Soviet immigration into Israel one reason that you've more closely allied yourself with Saddam Hussein?

A: No, we have extremely good relations with Iraq. These relations developed over many years. They developed during the period of time when Iraq fought to defend the Arab Order against the threats from the outside, and it is not new that our relations with Iraq are as strong as they are.

Q: To me and the people of the U.S. what Saddam Hussein has said are very sharp, very harsh words. Do you, who had been for a long time a moderate in the Arab World, who has been a close ally to the U.S., do you share his views?

A: I believe that Saddam Hussein's statements were taken out of context every time. He said that if we are hit by nuclear device we will hit back. That is all he said.

Q: Is there a likelihood now, as we see the situation developing in the way we are now, is there a likelihood of increased terrorism?

A: I think there is a chance for extremists on both sides to have their way and destroy every chance for peace in this area?

Q: King Hussein, we come to the end of our discussion. We are moving toward a period of time where the Middle East is in a tremendous distress partly because of what has happened in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. Has the end of the cold war been good or bad for the Middle East?

A: For the whole world it's been good and I hope it will be for this area, and I hope that everyone will try to make their best to make it so before it is too late.

Ridley fiasco leaves Britain more isolated

By William Saltmarsh
Reuter

LONDON — The resignation of Nicholas Ridley, one of Margaret Thatcher's closest confidants, leaves the prime minister further isolated in a cabinet leaning closer to tight links between Britain and the European Community. Thatcher has replaced Ridley as Secretary of Trade and Industry with Peter Lilley whose views on the community match, less outspokenly, those of his predecessor.

But Lilley, 46, a firm opponent of European Monetary Union and what he sees as loss of sovereignty for Britain, entered parliament only in 1983 and lacks political experience.

He is unlikely to be as effective a counter-weight as the abrasive Ridley to "pro-Europeans" like Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd and Chancellor of the Exchequer John Major, both discreetly hailing Thatcher to quicken her pace on the community.

The prime minister has chosen a quiet technocrat who will bridge the deep rift in her conservative party exposed by the anti-German outburst which cost 61-year-old Ridley his job.

Ridley, in an interview with the Spectator Magazine, charged that West Germany wanted to take over Europe, castigated France as Bonn's lap-dog and said yielding British sovereignty to the community would be like surrendering to Hitler.

Ridley's resignation at the weekend may appease Britain's EC partners. But Thatcher's conservative party is split over con-

siderable support for Ridley's attitude if not his language.

His backers argue that, when Britain voted to join the EC in a 1974 referendum, few people foresaw the extent of political and economic tension towards which the group is now heading.

Former Cabinet Minister Sir Rhodes Boyson said Ridley's remarks had "taken the cork out of the bottle and the genie is out. We need to have in the country a debate about where we stand on Europe instead of taking it for granted."

Thatcher's task is complicated by doubts over how far Ridley was expressing her thoughts.

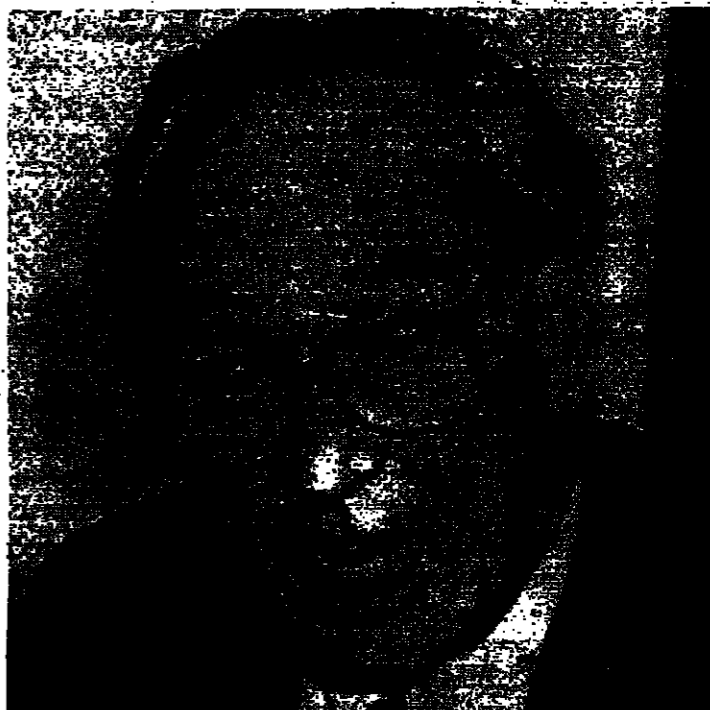
While Thatcher has disavowed Ridley's comments, conservative Member of Parliament Julian Critchley said on Britain's TV-AM programme: "Whatever she might have said, there are lots of people who might not be prepared to believe her."

The opposition Labour Party says the delay between the outbreak of the row and Ridley's resignation will be seen as evidence that Thatcher agreed with him.

The interview was published on Thursday, while Ridley was on a visit to Hungary. He swiftly retracted his views from Budapest, returned to Britain on Friday night but did not resign until Saturday, after talking to Thatcher by telephone.

Labour's Deputy Leader, Roy Hattersley, said: "The real issue is Mrs. Thatcher's lamentable failure to act decisively."

"Her vacillation has already harmed our reputation abroad and fuelled the suspicion that



Nicholas Ridley

privately she agrees with what Mr. Ridley said."

Labour is fanning a fresh aspect of the controversy which surfaced with The Independent newspaper on Sunday reprinting what it called a confidential memorandum on a seminar held last March to brief Thatcher on what to expect of a united Germany.

The document, reportedly written by Thatcher's Foreign Policy Adviser Charles Powell, spoke of German characteristics as being "angst, aggressiveness, bullying, egotism, inferiority complex, sentimentality."

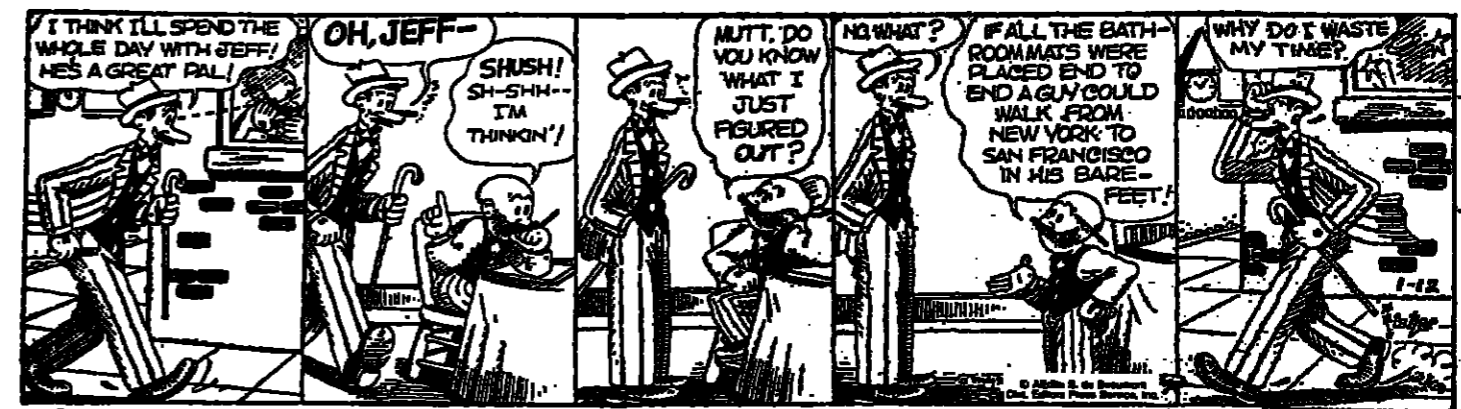
But it concluded that Thatcher should "be nice to the Germans."

The Independent's report focused attention on theories that Ridley and his supporters were only expressing deep anti-foreign feelings among the British public.

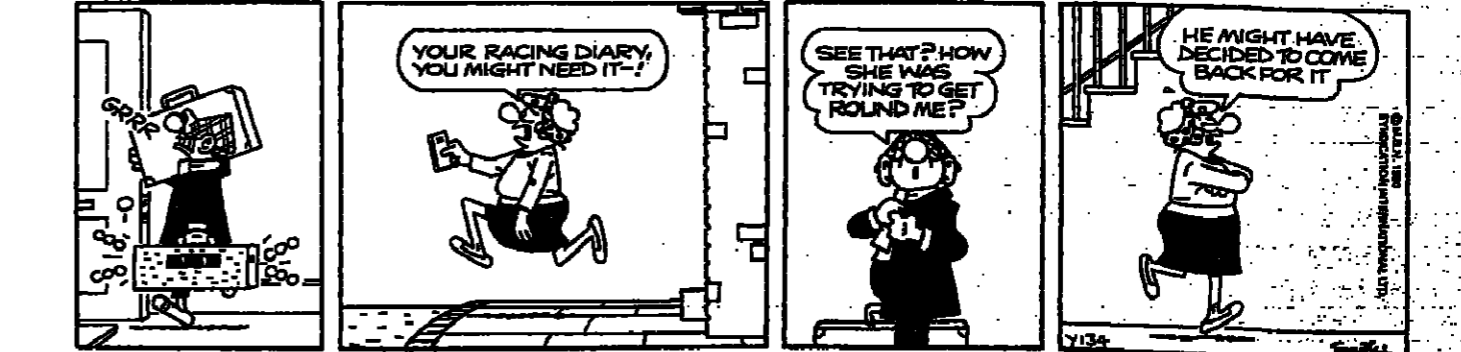
Another newspaper, The Mail on Sunday, said in an editorial that the issue must be confronted and discussed.

The paper urged Britain to commit itself fully to the EC but said: "We can never be part of a broader European entity, whatever the politicians may say, if our hearts and minds refuse to cross the channel."

Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



The case of 'expensive' Gulf women and broke single men

By Marianne Isa
Reuter

BAHRAIN — Oil-rich Gulf Arab states are trying to curb soaring marriage costs which officials say are encouraging young men to spurn local women and marry less expensive wives from India or the Philippines.

The main problem is the dowry, the price which a Muslim groom must pay his prospective wife to guarantee her security.

Officials say the rush of oil money in the region in the late 1970s fuelled materialist values which pushed Gulf dowries to unreasonable heights.

Although the heady days of the oil boom have ended, social expectations have not and many young men are forced to borrow heavily to get a local wife, they say.

Studies show that average dowries in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates — the wealthiest Gulf states — are now around \$50,000.

Costs of a lavish wedding party, usually held at a hotel and often lasting three days, could double that amount.

In Bahrain and Oman middle class dowries range from \$3,000 to \$40,000.

Officials say 30 years ago, a bride normally celebrated at her parents' house with female friends and relatives while men flocked to congratulate the groom separately in his home.

"There is no doubt the flood of oil money witnessed by Gulf societies in the 1970s and 1980s caused negative social habits," said Kamel Saleh Al Saleh, head of the Gulf Arab Council of Ministers for Labour and Social Affairs.

"This included the payments of high dowries, costly marriage parties, honeymoons and furniture — all of these practices have become hurdles for youths who wish to marry," he told Reuters.

To counter the problem, most Gulf Arab states have set up special marriage funds to provide grants and soft loans to young men — provided they marry local women.

Officials are increasingly worried about marriages to foreigners, usually from the Far East, because of the perceived threat to their own Islamic culture and traditions.

Working expatriates comprise more than 70 per cent of the population in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.

Many Gulf states have launched a public awareness campaign to discourage high dowries and expensive weddings.

The Kuwaiti government said last March it would give local newly-weds a \$3,400 grant and a \$6,800 soft loan.

Men married to non-Kuwaitis who wanted to take a Kuwaiti wife were also eligible to apply for the funds.

Islam, the religion in the Gulf, allows men to take up to four wives. Saudi Arabia and Oman have banned marriages to foreigners while Kuwait and Qatar have restricted them.

Many Gulf states have also launched a public awareness

campaign to discourage high dowries and expensive weddings.

"The problem is that the value of the human being here has changed — before education and knowledge were the standard, now people are valued by money and gold," said Sabika Al-Najjar, who works for the United Nations Development Programme in Bahrain.

"A lot of girls say if they didn't ask for a large dowry from a man he would think them cheap — and young couples think that people will respect them according to how much they spend on wedding parties," she told Reuters.

Sheikh Sultan Bin Mohammad Al Qassimi, ruler of the UAE Emirate of Sharjah, last month hosted a mass wedding party for 20 couples in a bid to draw attention to the problem.

The Sharjah Welfare Association paid all expenses and each couple got an interest free loan of \$10,900.

"We have been trying to find a solution to the problem of dowry and immense marriage expenses but in vain," Sheikh Sultan told television crews from neighbouring Gulf states.

Some educated young couples, particularly in Bahrain, have begun to take note.

Guests attending a wedding on the island last month were horrified to learn the bride's father had registered his daughter's dowry at a mere 100 fils (26 cents).

A recently-married woman, mathematics teacher Lamya Al-Arriady, said she had asked her husband Waleed only for a gold coin worth 45 dinars (\$120) and inscribed with a verse from the Koran, the Muslim holy book.

"A lot of people were surprised when I told them," she said. "But I am totally against high dowries because I believe it is like selling yourself."

Ancient Athens suffers a modern nightmare

By Dina Kyriakidou
Reuter

ATHENS — Once described in Greek poetry as the gemstone on the earth's ring, Athens needs a lot of polishing before it sheds its notoriety as one of Europe's most polluted cities.

As Athenians begin their summer exodus, abandoning their ancient city to escape the scorching sun and thick smog, tourists dip into public ponds for relief.

Looking down from one of the green mountains surrounding the Greek capital, its best known landmark — the Parthenon — is hardly visible through a heavy cloud of pollution.

"Athens is a city which is moving with mathematical precision to paralysis," Environment and City Planning minister Stefanos Manos told Reuters in an interview.

Now sprawling over 528 square kilometres of what used to be a green valley split by a river, Athens was only a poor village at the foot of the Acropolis when it became the capital of modern Greece in 1834.

None of the splendour of the golden age of pericles had remained except for scattered marble ruins which Athenians used to loot for construction materials.

Unplanned development has transformed that village of rock-paved alleys and small houses into a crowded, noisy and filthy concrete monster which becomes deadlier every summer.

What Athenians call the "nefos" the cloud of air pollution which hangs trapped above the city in warm weather, killed hundreds of residents during a summer heatwave in 1987.

This summer Athenians are again fleeing to the countryside and the white-washed islands, leaving the capital to its misery of strikes, power cuts and water shortage.

"The city of Athens has no authority on its biggest problems which are the 'nefos', traffic and transportation," said Deputy Mayor Ilias Skalaos.

Mayors have made cosmetic changes, planting trees, renovating the central constitution



The Temple of the Olympian Zeus in Athens

square, where huge political rallies used to be held, and decorating squares with art works.

A glass sculpture of a runner which dominates the central Omonoia square was built to mark Greece's bid to host the 1996 Olympics. But Athenians said the athlete, sick of the smog was running away from Athens.

Heavy traffic contributes to the air and noise pollution. Sidewalks, sometimes not wide enough for two pedestrians, are often blocked by parked cars and motorcycles.

Apart from two central patches of green, the National Garden and the Areos park, Athens is a massive construction of concrete apartment buildings.

There was no planning to cope with large numbers of Greeks who came from the countryside and Asia minor back in 1923, after a war between Greece and Turkey, and who helped boost the capital's population to its present 3.5 million.

As people from the countryside moved to the capital in search of work and Athenians moved to the rapidly developed suburbs in search of quiet and fresh air, the inner city became the commercial and administrative centre.

Downtown Athens was laid out by the Bavarian architects brought by modern Greece's first king, Otto, in the 19th century. They also designed his palace, now the parliament, in the neo-classical style which influenced most buildings at the time.

Water... immigration and emigration

By Dr. Abdul Rahim Malhas

IN THE Arab World, when a minor problem occurs, people get concerned. They talk about it, flood the newspapers with pertinent articles, call for a grand conference to discuss it, and occasionally take action. This was recently demonstrated when the nation got busy deciding who should comb the hair of whom!

However, when an impending disaster of great magnitude threatens to change the basics of our lives, the fate of our children, and the essence of our existence, we suddenly become mute, and do not evolve to the expected degree of involvement nor the necessary level of concern.

This pathologic imbalance in the choice of mental preoccupation is practised by the ordinary citizen, and astonishingly, by the responsible Jordanians sitting in the legislative and the executive armchairs. Session after parliamentary session of heated debate are easily devoted to a minor problem such as — how to retire a high official — while the more important and vital issue of water shortage is being ignored!

Expert reports draw attention to the gravity of the problem as it was proven beyond any doubt that there is going to be real and actual threat of water shortage in this region in the very near future. They also point to its complexity, being closely related to politics, health, war, dignity, land, people, food, freedom, and security. To frame the gloomy picture, some of these reports remind the reader that history books contain vivid examples of nations that were washed away as their water resources dried up.

The implications of water shortages are, to say the least, extremely frightening. By its nature, water is an essential ingredient of most, if not all, vital aspects and activities of our life. Under a certain critical level, water shortage can seriously alter agriculture, industry, energy and personal functions. Characteristically, water dries up gradually, but one feels its absence suddenly, because habits do not change with the water level in the reservoir. Due to that, manageable water shortages can suddenly change into unmanageable water absence, and a state of acceptable worry can swiftly change into a chaotic state of fear and panic.

Although water shortages seem to be an international problem, the picture is rather different in our region. No doubt we face peculiar challenges with different connotations. Active desertion, unreplenished deep and surface aquifers, inadequate reservation, inefficient recycling, abuse and misuse, and a tireless enemy who serves more than one purpose stealing available water resources, make our kind of problem particularly thorny. But what makes it particularly dangerous and extremely frightening is this obvious selfish, negligent and fatalistic attitude we carry when dealing with it. To those who believe that God can solve all our problems, the recent Iran earthquake and the Saudi tunnel disaster prove that we should help.

The comprehension and management of water problems are uniquely different from other problems facing the nation. The difference between food shortages and water shortages for example is like the difference between hunger and thirst: one can be tolerated and the other cannot. One can wait, but the other is always urgent. That is why water shortages should be treated as a preventable threat, and not as treatable disaster.

If this urgent and vital issue is not number one on our list of national priorities, and if it is not fully investigated and thoroughly understood, we may be late. If new national laws governing its collection, storage, distribution and abuse are not formulated now, time may soon come when our worries will shift from the immigration of Jews to emigration of Jordanians.

Self employment — taking the initiative to find alternatives

How far can global unemployment be eased through a strategy of promoting self-employment? Nearly 1,000 million persons are already self-employed and the issue facing policy-makers and planners is whether it is feasible or desirable to rely on self-employment to absorb more of the world's steadily swelling labour force.

Nearly half of the labour force in low-income countries is self-employed on average, about a quarter in middle income countries, and a low 9 per cent in very high income economies. Says a just published ILO report: "The apparent tendency of self-employment to decline with rising income coincides with a shift of the labour force away from agriculture, where self-employment is universally more common than in non-agricultural activities."

This is a natural and desirable result of over-all modernisation and economic development. But the technological revolution and changing work patterns rule out any hope of the organised industrial sector soaking up all the backlog of the world's unemployed let alone the tens of millions of new entrants to the labour force each year. Other avenues of employment have to be found.

Self-employment is one of them. In the industrialised market economy countries alone, there are some 28 million self-employed in the urban areas and at least another 5 million unpaid family workers. In the developing countries over 100 million are self-employed in the urban areas in addition to 33 million unpaid family workers. Even in the industrialised centrally planned economy countries, there are an estimated 1.2 million self-employed urban workers and an additional 300,000 unpaid family workers.

Growth of self-employment in the industrial and service sectors of market economy developed countries tends to be linked to the levels of unemployment. Self-employment is increasing where unemployment is high and alternatives limited.

Ideally, self-employment can provide a person with considerable autonomy, a chance to realise his or her potential and to be rewarded in proportion to the effort expended, the risks taken and the savings invested. But for some workers, it represents no more than survival activity on the fringes of society.

The world is entering the 1990s with no solutions in sight to the major problems of growth, trade imbalances, debt servicing and economic stability. And there is disillusionment with centralised planning and the public sector as instrument for promoting growth. There are however high expectations across the globe of what can be achieved by a greater reliance on individual initiative.

These expectations can be realised to some extent by encouraging self-employment in new sectors of economic activity. The self-employed have so far tended to concentrate in one or two economic sectors, sometimes to the point of saturation. Methodologies are needed to identify new sectors with high growth potential for self-employment.

It is fundamentally important to ensure that self-employment is both productive and freely chosen, says the report. In other words, self-employment should be promoted only where it meets minimum standards and is economically viable.

The report spells out the parameters of a desirable policy towards self-employment thus: an economic and employment policy which does not discriminate between self-employment and other forms of employment; a selective promotional policy which offsets existing distortions and biases that cannot be removed and screens out, and eliminates where necessary, unproductive and undesirable forms of self-employment; a social policy which ensure equality of treatment and of access to basic social protection of the self-employed and wage-employees; and the development of organisation and networks which serve the collective interests of the self-employed.

Social protection must also be provided. The changing nature and structure of employment clearly calls for adaptation of social security benefits originally conceived for employees in full-time regular employment, the report says.

To achieve profound and durable improvements in the lot of the poorer and more vulnerable workers, organisation and group formation among workers including the self-employed is needed — ILO.



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Moscow wants to reschedule some debt

MINERALNYE VODY, Soviet Union (R) — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev said Monday Moscow wanted to reschedule some debt on better terms because of the difficulties it was having in reforming its economy.

Gorbachev told journalists at the end of his two-day talks with Chancellor Helmut Kohl that he did not want a Western aid package the West German leader supported to be a "hand-out or a favour."

"We want to make very deep changes," he said, in reference to the economic reform plan Bonn officials expected him to draw up by October.

"The issue is only prolonging the repayment of our debts a bit at more suitable conditions," he said.

Gorbachev did not mention any figures for the amount of debt he wanted rescheduled.

According to Deutsche Bank, Moscow is 1.5 billion marks (\$940 million) behind in payment of its debt to West German firms and 3.8 billion marks (\$2.4 billion) late on total Western debt.

Bonn guaranteed a five billion mark (\$3 billion) credit to Moscow last month to help it meet payment deadlines to West German firms.

According to Bonn officials, Gorbachev said the Soviet economy was suffering heavily from the drop in world prices for oil, one of its main export commodities.

He told the visiting West Germans that the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear accident had cost the Soviet economy 15 billion roubles (\$24 billion) while the 1979-1988 war in Afghanistan had eaten up six to seven billion roubles (\$9.7-\$11.3 billion), they said.

Even Gorbachev's unpopular anti-alcohol campaign, which he introduced soon after taking power in 1985, and later relaxed, carried a price tag he declined to reveal, they said.

Kohl offered no new funds to win Soviet acceptance of German membership in NATO, said the officials, who asked not to be named.

Kohl agreed to help Moscow meet the costs of stationing its troops in Eastern Germany for the next three to four years.

Egypt stands at crossroads

CAIRO (R) — Debt-straddled Egypt faces critical decisions in the next few months on how to tackle its worsening finances.

Foreign debt is around \$50 billion, the budget deficit is at least eight per cent of gross domestic product and banks have refused to lend the government new funds.

To add to its woes Egypt faces a cut-off aid from its most important donors — the United States and France.

"We've been hearing for 20 years that Egypt had reached the end of its rope, but something always came along to save it," said an Egyptian economist.

"This time I can't see anything coming along."

Egypt has turned to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), though for more than two years Cairo has been resisting the implementation of its bitter austerity medicine for fear of social unrest, like that of the late '70s when riots erupted after food subsidies were briefly removed.

Western economists say the crunch could come in the next few months when Egypt must make a series of heavy payments on its military and economic debt to the United States or risk being cut off from \$2.3 billion a year in

U.S. aid.

Under the U.S. Brook amendment fresh aid is suspended to countries more than a year behind on debt repayments.

In September, Egypt must pay more than \$140 million for an instalment that came due a year ago, according to Western economists.

It is the biggest payment due since the Brook amendment started to bite in Egypt last November. Further substantial, though smaller, payments are due in October, November and December.

Egypt's second biggest creditor, France, has also threatened to cut off aid if debt repayments of around \$150 to \$200 million a year are not met, economists say.

Economists speculate that a sharp rise in Arab aid, which virtually dried up after Egypt signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1979, may have helped stave off an earlier crisis.

Loans from a group of seven Arab and Islamic donors shot up to \$400 million in 1989 from \$36 million in 1988, according to figures published by the donors, and this year could go even higher. Last month Saudi Arabia donated 200,000 tonnes of wheat.

The financing from the Arab states resulted from Egypt's read-

mission into the Arab fold after years in the wilderness following its 1979 peace pact with Israel.

An agreement with the IMF would lead to the rescheduling of part of Egypt's debt to government creditors.

The IMF and the World Bank have been trying to persuade Egypt to take painful steps to straighten out its finances and to shift more to the private sector.

Western economists said IMF made progress in IMF talks late last month. In the last few months Cairo has sharply raised prices on basic consumer commodities subsidised by the state.

But economists say the IMF would like Cairo to raise energy prices towards world levels to help reduce the budget deficit.

An initial \$300 million structural adjustment loan from the World Bank is contingent on an IMF agreement being signed, with more funds to follow.

Diplomats say Egypt is hoping Paris, London and Washington will pull strings to help in its dealings with the IMF.

"But it seems it won't work this time. There is real coordination between donors... you really feel it. They have come to realise that in this case the more you help the more you hurt," said an Egyptian economist.

U.S. hikes budget deficit forecast

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House Monday hiked its forecast of next year's budget deficit to \$168.8 billion — \$23.1 billion if the cost of bailing out the savings and loan industry is included — and warned of devastating cuts in programmes without a quick budget compromise with Congress.

The new estimate was more than two-thirds higher than the administration's projection just six months ago.

Airport control towers could be closed, student loans cancelled, food inspections interrupted and military forces halved by cutting perhaps one million people as the government buckled under what could be over \$100 billion in cuts mandated by the federal deficit-reduction law, said Budget Director Richard Darman.

It seemed unlikely that Congress would permit cuts on such a huge scale. And White House officials conceded that easing was needed in the deficit-reduction law, which mandates spending cuts across a broad range of programmes if targets for reducing federal red ink are not met.

But administration officials in-

sisted they would support a watering down of the law only if coupled with a \$50 billion package of spending cuts and new taxes.

Two-month-old "budget summit" talks between the administration and congressional leaders on a deficit-reduction package have seemed bogged down despite President George Bush's reversal of his "no new taxes" pledge three weeks ago.

Monday's revised deficit projection was up \$10 billion from the administration's informal estimate just a month ago and up sharply from January's \$100.5 billion estimate.

The new figures, contained in the administration's annual midyear economic review, are based on the economic data that show slower economic growth than the administration expected. The White House now projects that the economy will grow by only 2.2 per cent this year — down from the 2.6 per cent it predicted in January.

In gloomy remarks that appeared directed partly at congressional budget negotiators, Darman spoke of "across-the-board spending reductions of a totally unprecedented size" if the \$100 billion gap can't be bridged by a budget compromise.

Added Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady: "This problem is serious. The law is the law. And we're going to obey it... this is

not a political wrestling match."

Bush issued a written statement saying that in light of the revised deficit estimate, "it is, therefore, all the more important that the budget summit reach agreement promptly and Congress act responsibly to bring the deficit down."

Monday's estimates by the White House Office of Management and Budget is the first step toward ordering the mandatory cuts.

The deficit-reduction law makes these figures the ones used in calculating the automatic cuts — called a "sequester" by the government — to take effect this fall. Automatic cuts make up the difference between the actual budget deficit each year and the law's steadily declining targets.

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| AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------|--------|------------------------|-------|-------|
| Tuesday, July 17, 1990 | | | | | |
| Central Bank official rates | | | | | |
| | Buy | Sell | | Buy | Sell |
| U.S. dollar | 664.0 | 668.0 | Swiss franc | 467.5 | 470.3 |
| Pound Sterling | 1194.5 | 1201.7 | French franc | 119.5 | 120.2 |
| Deutschmark | 401.0 | 403.4 | Japanese yen (for 100) | 448.5 | 451.2 |
| | | | Dutch guilder | 355.6 | 357.7 |
| | | | Swedish crown | 110.9 | 111.6 |
| | | | Italian lire (for 100) | 54.8 | 55.1 |
| | | | Belgian franc (for 10) | 195.3 | 196.5 |

| LONDON EXCHANGE RATES | | | |
|--|-------------|------------------|-------------|
| LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday. | | | |
| One Sterling | 1.8075/85 | U.S. dollar | 1.1595/75 |
| One U.S. dollar | 1.6515/20 | Canadian dollar | 1.8620/30 |
| | 1.8620/30 | Deutschemarks | 1.4155/65 |
| | 34.00/05 | Dutch guilders | 5.5340/50 |
| | 1209/1210 | Swiss francs | 148.05/15 |
| | 5.9725/75 | Belgian francs | 5.9725/75 |
| | 6.3300/50 | French francs | 6.2850/2900 |
| | 6.2850/2900 | Italian lire | 361.00/50 |
| One ounce of gold | 361.00/50 | Japanese yen | |
| | | Swedish crowns | |
| | | Norwegian crowns | |
| | | Danish crowns | |
| | | U.S. dollars | |

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Asprey purchases Garrard

LONDON (R) — The British royal family's favourite jewellers, Garrard, was sold to luxury goods firm Asprey PLC Tuesday as part of a £75 million (\$135 million) takeover deal.

Asprey said it agreed to buy the Mappin and Webb jewellery and silver group, which owns the crown jewellers Garrard, from the Sears PLC department store chain.

Asprey's sloop on Garrard followed two raids on Asprey in which criminals made off with gems worth millions.

Asprey said Sears already owned 25.45 per cent of Asprey's ordinary shares and after the merger it will have a 38.5 per cent interest in the earnings of the enlarged Asprey group.

The Asprey family will still hold 50.7 per cent of the ordinary shares.

Chairman John Asprey said: "This acquisition will represent a landmark in the history of Asprey."

Geoffrey Maitland Smith, chairman of Sears, said his company had hoped for many years that the two businesses would come together.

Ukraine powerhouse crucial to Soviet food and industry

MOSCOW (R) — Secession by the tiny Baltic republics, the mere threat of which has drawn angry rumblings from the Kremlin, would seem insignificant compared with loss of the Ukraine.

Second largest of the 15 Soviet republics and an agricultural and industrial powerhouse, the Ukraine is integral to the Soviet economic machine.

Its population is more than 51 million, 21 per cent of the national total.

And while Western analysts said Monday's sovereignty declaration by the republic's parliament did not mean a break with Moscow was imminent, the move highlighted the increasingly fragile nature of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Economic data show the Ukraine's central role in the Soviet economy, second only to that of the giant Russian Federation.

Long-standing historical and cultural ties with the majority Russians — including related Slavonic languages — further reinforce that interdependence.

At the start of the 20th century, before the ravages of revolution, war and famine, the Ukraine was a European "bread basket," — a net exporter of grain.

After World War I, revolution and civil war left Ukrainian agriculture in shambles, although it briefly exported grain again under Lenin's new economic policy, or nep. It still produces about 22 per cent of the Soviet Union's food.

Total grain production in 1987 was 43.1 million tonnes of a Soviet total of 211.3 million tonnes. The republic produces 60 per cent of the nation's sugar beet and half its sunflowers.

Its Donbass coalfields, stretching from Rostov to Donetsk, are estimated to hold up to 60 per cent of the country's anthracite and bituminous coal reserves.

Coal production in 1987 was 192 million tonnes, 25 per cent of the national total, and the republic accounts for one-fifth of the

total output of machinery and chemicals.

Kievan Rus, the medieval state of eastern Slavs, was the ancestor of the modern Soviet state.

In a flurry of activity in the 10th and early 11th centuries, it expanded its territory from the Lower Volga river to the northern Caucasus. In 988, its ruler Vladimir I introduced Christianity, laying the foundation for what became the Russian Orthodox Church.

Kievan Rus fell to invading Mongols in the 13th century and was later swallowed up by the expanding state of Muscovy.

A brief period of post-war independence ended with the creation of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and its incorporation into the Soviet Union.

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Ordinary issue No 13 Drawing of: July 17, 1990

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|--|--|
| 6369 5978 0718 2968 7883 Win JD 20 each | 9565 5392 7208 7523 7268 Win JD 10 each |
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Liberian rebels suffer from lack of food, breakdown in discipline

MONROVIA (R) — With Liberia's government under increasing pressure from a starving population, an eyewitness said rebels trying to overthrow President Samuel Doe were suffering from a lack of food and a breakdown in discipline.

A prominent Liberian who asked not to be identified said Monday he spent two weeks in rebel captivity after being captured by forces of the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) in the residential suburb of Paynesville 13 kilometres to the east of the capital Monrovia.

He told reporters he was kept inside his home in Paynesville where he had ample time to observe the rebels in action.

The rebels, headed by Charles Taylor, have encircled Monrovia for more than two weeks, cutting off public utilities and food supply routes into the city.

The man, who holds a prominent position in a Liberian government ministry, said the rebels summarily executed members of President Doe's Krabin tribe and their allies, the Mandingos.

Any civilians resisting their arbitrary demands for food, lodging or transportation were shot on the spot.

Such reports have been confirmed by reporters and others travelling behind rebel lines, who have described summary executions and frequent breakdowns of discipline among Taylor's fighters.

"It was sheer anarchy," the man said. "Every house is opened and looted of the cars and the food in it. When they see your house, they chase you out with your family. If you resist, they kill you."

"They tend not to loot other objects in the house. I believe

Taylor is personally trying to prevent the looting and killing, but discipline is rapidly breaking down among his men."

Discipline was reported to be breaking down as well among government troops inside Monrovia where five different army units set up five successive checkpoints on the main road through the city centre all within a quarter mile. At each roadblock the soldiers — with politeness — begged passing motorists for food, drink, cigarettes and money.

In Monrovia, the military situation was rated hopeless for Doe by most diplomats, who said the only issue was when he would agree to leave the city.

Some 2,000 U.S. Marines were cruising offshore in a four-ship task-force waiting for a signal to come into the capital of this West African state founded in 1847 by freed American slaves.

The Americans say they will land only if they are needed to save U.S. lives. President George Bush has the last word on when to send in the Marines.

The government is operating at below skeleton staff level and only four of Doe's 21 ministers remain at their posts.

Even the chief of staff of the armed forces of Liberia, Lieutenant General Charles Julu, has fled, government officials have finally admitted. Julu was reported to have arrived in the United States.

The few government officials still at their posts were reported to be regularly harassed and threatened. One high-ranking civil servant said he was stopped by an armed soldier at a checkpoint who demanded he turn over a bag of food he was carrying or be shot on the spot.

"I had no choice but to obey,"

the civil servant said.

Refugees continued to stream westward out of Monrovia on the only road still reported open to refugee camps or the open countryside. They said they were leaving the city in search of food and safety.

Government sources said the executive mansion's chief cameraman, Edward King, was shot and killed in his house on Saturday by a group of masked gunmen.

The sources said King's wife prostrated herself in front of the men, pleading for her husband's life. The men brutally ordered her into a bedroom.

She cowered there all night listening for sounds. In the morning she ventured outside and found her husband's body on the threshold with a bullet in his head. He had apparently been shot with a gun equipped with a silencer.

Similar incidents were reported throughout the city and widespread gunfire was heard.

In Liberia's dirty civil war, only the thousands killed have allowed another depressing statistic to go almost unnoticed — an abnormally high number of civilians with bullet wounds.

Most are shot at close range by soldiers in President Samuel Doe's army, out on a looting and shooting spree under cover of night curfew with the U.S.-supplied M-16 or M-1 rifles.

The army, under siege in Monrovia by rebels, seldom engages the "enemy" in a classic firefight from a distance.

Instead they shoot civilians, usually male and under 35 when the 7.62mm bullet makes an exit hole the size of a tea plate through their abdomen. Many are shot in the chest or abdomen.

"I never saw such brutality," said Brother Justino Izquierdo, executive officer at Saint Joseph's Catholic Hospital, the only functioning hospital in a city of half a million people.

"I have served 25 years in Africa and 18 of those in Liberia and this is the worst I have ever seen," he added.

Saint Joseph's patients include a 12-year old boy, sent out to buy food and shot through the palm of the hand for refusing to part with a \$5 bill given to him by his father.

He had been stopped by one of Doe's soldiers and ordered to hand over the money. He refused, following his father's order not to give the money to anybody but the storekeeper.

He is with scores of other patients crammed into Saint Joseph's, a 140-bed hospital run by Spanish monks. It now has more than 200 patients and 300 of their relatives who are unable to return home because of the fighting.

Patients have spilled over into the reception area where they sleep on makeshift mattresses.

The staff do not ask whether they are soldiers or civilians. The space marked for "tribe" on admission cards is deliberately left blank. Those caught on the wrong side of the dividing line are liable to be slaughtered.

Soldiers normally respect the notice painted on bedsheets hanging above the hospital entrance which reads "absolutely no weapons allowed on the hospital compound."

Nevertheless the sight of soldiers in camouflage fatigues visiting colleagues is enough to terrify some G-10 patients who have been shot by the army.

Pakistan detains 150 for blasts; death toll reaches 43

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan authorities have detained 150 people suspected of involvement in a rash of bombings in the southern city of Hyderabad Sunday which police said killed 43 people.

Officials Tuesday said 150 people had been detained throughout Sindh province, with 88 detentions in Hyderabad division, which includes Hyderabad city. The suspects are all being interrogated, they said.

They said those held included prominent members of the Jaiy Sind Nationalist Movement, a nationalist Sindhi group, which had called a protest strike on Hyderabad Sunday.

On Sunday, five bombs exploded in different areas of Hyderabad, killing dozens of people and causing panic through crowded bazaars.

One bomb went off in a moving railway carriage some 25 kilometres north of Hyderabad, killing 16 people.

Witnesses said one of the blasts, which police said were caused by home-made bombs hidden in cooking oil tins, left a crater one metre wide in the paved roadway.

Gunbattles between rival ethnic groups were later reported in several parts of the city.

Police said Tuesday the death toll from the blasts had grown to 43 but added the figure would probably rise.

"Many victims were simply blown to bits, so it is difficult to identify them," one police spokesman said.

Hyderabad is the second largest city in troubled Sindh province, which this year has seen a rapid escalation of ethnic violence between native Sindhis and Mohajirs, Muslims who moved to Pakistan from India when the sub-continent was divided in 1947.

Jaiy Sind had earlier declared Sunday a "black day" in Hyderabad and called for a strike to protest what it called the police torture of one of its members who was arrested in May on suspicion of involvement in an earlier massacre.

Jaiy Sind Monday released a statement accusing the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto of planning the explosions to sabotage its protest.

The main Mohajir group, the Mohajir Qami Movement (MQM), also accused the PPP of involvement in the blasts, which it described as part of a concerted anti-Mohajir campaign.

The MQM declared three days of mourning for the bomb victims, most of whom were buried in ceremonies attended by thousands of mourners Monday, witnesses said.

Hyderabad and the Sind provincial capital, Karachi, were both placed under an army-supervised curfew in May after ethnic violence that killed more than 100 people.

The curfew was lifted last month, but troops and police continue to patrol the streets. In Hyderabad, police Tuesday said extra security was in place with road blocks and spot checks of pedestrians for weapons.

Bhutto, who has resisted calls to put the province under direct rule from Islamabad or under limited martial law, described the explosions "a gruesome act of sabotage" and demanded severe punishment for those responsible.

No one has yet claimed responsibility for the blasts.

At least 300 die in Philippine quake

BAGUIO, Philippines (R) — U.S. and Philippine rescue teams Tuesday ferried relief supplies by helicopter to the northern city of Baguio, worst hit by an earthquake which killed at least 300 people and injured hundreds more.

U.S. medics and engineers from Clark Air Force Base helped Philippine rescue workers sift through rubble at Baguio's Nevada Hotel where several Americans were reported missing.

U.S. Ambassador Nicholas Platt flew to the mountain resort 200 kilometres north of Manila to check on the fate of about 2,000 Americans visiting or living in Baguio.

"We're working on ways to get as much help and equipment into Baguio, but right now the only available means is by helicopter," Platt told reporters.

A wing of the luxury Hyatt Hotel collapsed in Monday's earthquake which measured 7.7 on the Richter Scale. By Tuesday afternoon, some 50 guests and staff were still trapped beneath slabs of crumpled concrete, rescue officials said.

At least 125 people died in Baguio where a clothing factory collapsed on workers, and students were crushed in a university building, hospitals and rescue workers said.

Philippine radio stations reported 30 goldminers died in Benguet, south of Baguio, in a mine collapse.

"The damage is much greater than we expected," said government press spokesman Tomas Gomez, who accompanied President Corason Aquino to a school at Cabanatuan north of Manila where at least 39 children were crushed to death in their classrooms.

"Right now the need in Baguio is for water," he said. He said roads to the northern city were cut, but might be opened by midnight when water trucks could get in through a mountain road.

About a dozen high-rise buildings were badly damaged in Baguio.

At the city's general hospital about 100 patients camped on the lawn, fearing further tremors. Rescue operations were hampered by lack of heavy equipment. The rescue workers are extracting more dead than alive," said one American television cameraman.

At least 600 people were injured across the northern Philippines as the quake toppled schools, hotels and other buildings and cut road links.

Strong aftershocks continued to rock Manila and the northern Philippines Tuesday.

At Cabanatuan, rescue officials said more than 100 bruised and shattered students had been pulled from the rubble of their high school alive. Between 50 and 100 were still trapped underneath.

Students trapped by huge slabs of concrete and twisted metal

passed their names out on pieces of paper. Relatives chanted "they're alive, they're alive," as rescuers using chisels and chain-saws inched towards the victims. Seventeen-year-old Maylen Rabor cried and begged her father to save her.

"Get me out of here. Papa. I can't take it anymore," the first-year college student told Cresencio Rabor, who clawed with his bare hands at the mountain of rubble pinning his daughter.

"If they go beyond today, we may not get any of them out alive," said Cabanatuan police chief Lieutenant Colonel Rogelio De Joya.

Aquino, under heavy escort, tried to console grieving mothers and visited the wounded in hospital.

Thousands of relatives gathered outside the main hospital and the disaster site.

"Tell those who have nothing to do with the rescue to leave," said Aquino, as a bloodied boy was rushed past her on a stretcher.

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"We will be coordinating with the embassies on how best to handle the assistance," he told reporters.

Gomez said Manila badly needed earth-moving equipment to rescue scores of people trapped in schools and other collapsed buildings.

Heavy-duty helicopters were also needed to shuttle medical supplies and injured people to hospitals, Gomez said. "We certainly have a need for antibiotics, anti-tetanus medicines, de-

troxose."

U.S. embassy spokesman Stanley Schragar told reporters: "We'll be doing whatever we can. We consider this to be a great tragedy."

Philippines pledged medical supplies and money in phone calls to television stations. One seven-year-old boy gave his savings of 200 pesos (\$9).

Gomez appealed for blood donations. "I guess this is another opportunity to prove that goodwill is limitless," he said.

Parents claw through rubble to find children.

Distraught parents clawed through the rubble to find their children. Many lay crushed in their schoolrooms. Some still clutched their class books. One young girl lay beneath a giant concrete slab that fell on her in the most powerful earthquake to hit the Philippines in 14 years.

She was dead, but still grasped her pen. Another girl lay with her legs crushed, buried under four concrete floors of the school that crumbled like a pack of cards. The building looked like a collapsed accordion.

New York park jogger testifies in rape case

NEW YORK (R) — A woman jogger raped, beaten and left for dead by a gang of 30 youths in New York's Central Park testified Monday that she could not remember anything of the attack but, more than a year later, still suffers severe physical effects from it.

In a strong, clear voice, the 30-year-old investment banker spoke publicly for the first time about the attack that shocked New York and raised an alarm about violent teenage crime.

Three of her alleged teenage assailants, all black, on trial for rape, sodomy and attempted murder stared at her as she spoke for 12 minutes. She never glanced in their direction and their lawyers refused to cross-examine her, making her the first witness in the case not to be questioned by the defence.

The woman, whose name is being withheld by newspapers, said she remembered the day of the attack — April 19, 1989 — only up to about 5 p.m. The next thing she remembered was waking up from a coma in a hospital more than a month later.

She said she could not recall leaving Salomon Brothers, where she is a vice president, or going to Central Park for her nightly jog. More than a year later, she still suffers severe physical effects from the savage beating she underwent.

"I have problems with balance and... coordination. At times I veer off to the right or left. I have lost my sense of smell totally," she said, adding that she also suffers from double vision and has to hold reading material off the left.

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The movement's first demand is for popular presidential elections as early as this year.

COLUMN

China announces severe penalty for pornographers

PEKING (AP) — China Monday announced severe penalties, including the death sentence, for those who deal in pornographic materials. The new regulation is the latest development in China's campaign against the "six evils" launched last fall. It was announced by the Supreme People's Court and the Supreme People's Procuratorate. The "six evils" are pornography, prostitution, gambling, feudal superstition, abducting and selling women and children, and trafficking in drugs. Items considered pornographic include audio and video tapes, records, books and magazines, playing cards, and photographs and pictures depicting sexual behaviour or directly depicting licentious images. This list was reported by the official Xinhua News Agency and the nationally televised evening news report. But Lin Zhu, vice president of the Supreme People's Court, said artistic and literary works that have some obscene content, paintings depicting the beauty of the human body and materials on medicine and natural science would not be considered pornographic. Lin's comment was one of the first to give some guidance on what will be considered pornographic. There is no legal definition of pornography, and in China anything showing a naked body or even kissing can be regarded as obscene.

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troxose."

Singh rejects ministers' resignations

NEW DELHI (R) — Indian Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh announced Tuesday he had rejected the resignations tendered by 13 ministers during a major power struggle with his deputy which brought the government to a virtual standstill.

Singh emerged victorious Monday night from a power struggle with ambitious Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal that raised doubts about the longevity of his minority government, which took power last December after winning national elections.

Senior government officials said earlier 15 ministers had quit but later revised the number.

The five-day power struggle erupted over Devi Lal's success in returning his eldest son, Om Prakash Chautala, to power in the northern state of Haryana just two months after Chautala was forced out over allegations he instigated election violence.

A senior official, who described Devi Lal's manoeuvre as

"a coup d'etat in Haryana," said Singh was initially prepared to accept it on the grounds he had no power to interfere in the affairs of a state section of his Janata Dal Party.

He was forced to confront Devi Lal over a dramatic weekend, in which he offered then withdrew his own resignation after ministers close to him resigned in what the official called "a revolt of the loyalists."

The revolt was led by cabinet ministers Arun Nehru and Arif Mohammad Khan and joined by Foreign Minister Inder Kumar Gujral.

Singh said in a statement he had not accepted the 13 resignations and asked the ministers to return to their jobs immediately as "government work should not suffer."

The five-day crisis appeared to have weakened considerably Singh's minority government.

"Stated simply, India may have to live with a leader who cannot

lead, a government that cannot govern, a party which is no longer the sum of its parts," the Times of India said in an editorial Tuesday.

Chautala had to quit as Haryana chief minister in May after he was charged by Janata Dal with instigating by-election violence in which 13 people were killed.

Late Monday, Chautala resigned unconditionally under intense party pressure, defusing the crisis.

Devi Lal, a 75-year-old peasant leader widely believed to have ambitions for the top job, emerged from the battle severely bruised and clearly without the backing in the party to launch another challenge soon.

He was outflanked by Singh who offered his resignation, one senior official said, to counter the belief held by many in his party that he had agreed to the sudden and surprising return of Chautala to power.

Fire put out at Empire State Building

NEW YORK (R) — A fire halfway up the Empire State Building Monday evening sent flames billowing from shattered windows and chased tourists from the observation deck. At least 38 people were injured, most from inhaling smoke.

About 150 firefighters battled the blaze, which was largely confined to four unoccupied offices on the 51st floor, said fire department spokesman Don Malva.

Heavy smoke poured through the middle floors of the 102-storey building, and the entire tower was cleared of tourists and late-lunching office workers.

The fire was reported at 6:30 p.m. (2230 GMT), and by 8:45 p.m. (0045 GMT Tuesday), the blaze was out and the danger passed, Malva said.

The fire did heavy damage on the 51st floor, with water damage on lower floors and smoke damage above, said John Mulligan, another department spokesman. The cause of the blaze wasn't immediately known, he said.

Thirty-one firefighters and seven civilians were injured, said Mulligan. Twelve of the firefighters were immediately hospitalised, the most seriously hurt suffering from first and second-degree burns.

Three non-firefighters were treated at the scene by paramedics, and four were hospitalised with smoke inhalation and heat exhaustion.

"Some people said they heard the alarms, others said they didn't," Mulligan said. "But we get that in every fire. There's a speaker system and we are investigating to see how well it worked."

are not related as it turned out but they happened all on top of each other. Immediately our successes...were forgotten in two weeks of a feeding frenzy of criticism," Truly said.

Under pressure to cut the budget and minimise any tax increase in an election year, Congress has voted to slice more than \$800 million from NASA's fiscal 1991 budget request of \$15.2 billion.

This effectively blocks President George Bush from laying the groundwork for his goal of sending an expedition to Mars from a manned moon base within 30 years.

"Space continues to be a top priority for this administration. We all want the best ideas on how we can move into the next century maintaining our leadership in space," the vice president's office said in announcing the formation of the outside task force.

It said the task force would report to Quayle but provided no timetable. A White House source said Truly would name members of the task force and that it was likely to be composed of former NASA officials.

Hyderabad and the Sind provincial capital, Karachi, were both placed under an army-supervised curfew in May after ethnic violence that killed more than 100 people.

The curfew was lifted last month, but troops and police continue to patrol the streets. In Hyderabad, police Tuesday said extra security was in place with road blocks and spot checks of pedestrians for weapons.

Bhutto, who has resisted calls to put the province under direct rule from Islamabad or under limited martial law, described the explosions "a gruesome act of sabotage" and demanded severe punishment for those responsible.

No one has yet claimed responsibility for the blasts.

The movement's first demand is for popular presidential elections as early as this year.

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Cuban refugees at Czechoslovak embassy give themselves up

HAVANA (R) — Twelve Cubans who took refuge in the Czechoslovak embassy in Havana last week left voluntarily and given themselves up to the authorities, the Cuban Foreign Ministry said Tuesday.